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LATIN AMERICA REPORT

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BRIEFS

OILFIELD PRODUCTION--This week (Suzuki), the second oilfield of the four in northeastern Ecuador, will begin producing 8,500 barrels daily. Together with the three other fields the total production will exceed 25,000 barrels daily, according to hydrocarbons officials. [PA112311 Quito Voz de Los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 10 Sep 82]

NEW OIL WELL--Natural Resources Ministry sources have said that drilling of the Nuevo Amazonas 1 oil well has given positive results. This well is being drilled in the southeastern area of the country. This oil well yields American Petroleum Institute grade 18 oil which is heavy but of commercial value in the future. [PA120224 Quito Voz de Los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 11 Sep 82]

CSO: 3348/23

BRIEFS

GEOTHERMAL STUDY--The first phase of a feasibility study of the island's geo-thermal (underground hot water) resources, commissioned by the Latin American Energy Organisation (OLADE), has revealed that there are four possible sources that could be tapped to generate electricity. The sources are the Guava and Wag Water Rivers in the Blue Mountain area of St. Thomas and the Crawle and Rio Minho areas in Clarendon. They are of the low-to-medium grade; that is, not having a temperature of about 80° Centigrade. The study was presented to Minister of State in the Office of the Prime Minister, the Hon. Basil Buck, on July 30 by OLADE Secretary-General, Sr. Ulises Ramirez, at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel. Mr. Buck said the result of the first phase of the study was encouraging and he would await anxiously the start of the second phase. This, he said, would determine how the resources would be utilized. The study was carried out by a New Zealand engineering firm at a cost of U.S. \$350,000. [Excerpt]
[Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 6 Aug 82 p 13]

CSO: 3298/001

LARGE SHIPMENT OF CRUDE MAY HELP TEXACO RAISE PRODUCTION

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 10 Sep 82 p 1

[Text]

IF THE 80,000 barrels per day (bpd) throughput at the Pointe-a-Pierre refinery of Texaco Trinidad Inc increases very soon to perhaps 110,000 barrels, it will be no surprise, it was stated yesterday.

Texaco confirmed that one of its ultra-large crude carriers — the Texaco Wind Eagle — is due in the Pointe-a-Pierre harbour on September 16 with a shipment of Dubai and Arabian light crude.

It was not revealed how much the tanker is bringing, but it is understood that such vessels have a capacity of more than two million barrels.

Texaco said in the past few months it refined Dubai crude.

"The ultra large crude carrier is scheduled to arrive with the crude and because of its size, will have to be lightened by transfer to smaller vessels for transshipment or refining," it was stated.

Three of the company's very large crude carriers have been moored in the Pointe-a-Pierre harbour for more than two months.

They were placed there in the wake of the excessive tonnage situation brought about by a drop in the demand for crude. They have a total capacity of 6.3 million barrels.

Meanwhile, attempts over the past few days to get comment from Trinidad Tesoro Petroleum Company concerning Texaco's reported move to buy excess crude from that company, proved futile.

Mr David Abdulah, Treasurer of the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union, said the union was told by the Ministerial Team, that Texaco was trying to get a discounted value on the US \$26 (TT \$62.40) price per barrel from Trinidad-Tesoro because of the quality of the crude.

It was pointed out, he said, that the Trinidad-Tesoro crude is better than the Mayan crude selling at US \$26 per barrel.

CSO: 3298/001

SITUATION OF MISKITOS IN HONDURAS, NICARAGUA DESCRIBED

Paris LE MONDE in French 17, 18 Aug 82

[17 Aug 82 p 6]

[Part 1 by our special correspondent Philippe Boggio of 2-part serialized article under overall heading "A People Torn Apart: The Miskito Indians": "I.--Honduras: Such a Quiet Little Port Town"]

[Text] The armed incidents on the border between Honduras and Nicaragua are growing in number and giving rise to fears of the outbreak of a real conflict between those two Central American countries, each blaming the other. Tension is particularly high in the Atlantic coast area, the traditional home of a population of Miskito Indians (generally estimated at 100,000) who ignore the border. Forgotten by the world up until now, the Miskitos in both Honduras and Nicaragua are torn apart and are coveted nowadays, victims of and a stake in a quarrel which goes beyond the Miskitos themselves. In Honduras the opponents of the Sandinists are trying to enlist the Miskitos into armed groups which makes incursions into Nicaragua. In this last-named country the authorities decided last January to forcibly evacuate some 8,000 Miskitos who were living along the Rio Coco, the river forming the border, in order to prevent the infiltrations of anti-Sandinist commando groups.

Puerto Lempira--(Atlantic coast of Honduras)--A dangerous spot. One might as well say that this bit of the world is a nice little hell overcome by frenzy--a deceptive paradise that hides its traps behind the forgotten charms of the tropics.

In appearance Puerto Lempira is just an out-of-the-way port, just as the Atlantic shore is out-of-the-way in the calculations of both northern and southern Central America, since their disturbances are concentrated on the Pacific coast. Puerto Lempira is a village which is inaccessible by road and which dominates a flat and waterlogged area as vast as two French departments put together. It is a town of scarcely a few thousand souls--Hondurans and

Indians--abandoned to the fate of a secret penance. This province, bound by rivers, and so justifiably called Gracias A Dios, is the territory of the Miskitos, which extends toward the south well beyond the Rio Coco, the river-border with Nacaragua.



For miles around all they have is this port for spare-time activities, a worm-eaten pier that is sinking into Caratasca Lagoon, a café on piles, and four little streets furrowed by the rains, lined by painted plank houses. Puerto Lempira, a victim of the retreat of the American frontier companies lives at an appallingly slow pace and saves its strength; a single flat-bottomed coaster manages to break through the mud of the channel, and the landing strip can only handle the smallest aircraft.

But this somnolence is completely relative. Puerto Lempira is, in fact, a "port of anguish"--a breeding ground where political and military unrest is freely blossoming. It is not war, of course. It is not a question of troop concentrations heralding imminent invasions, or even, on close examination, of those training camps which are cooking up "Bays of Pigs" for the Caribbean.

There isn't any of that, but, to tell the truth, what there is isn't much less. Honduras, with the active support of the United States, simultaneously keeps up intense psychological activity and maintains a military laboratory; both the one and the other are intended to prepare for more serious actions if the situation should arise. What is the target being aimed at? Sandinist

Nicaragua, of course, accused of wanting to propose its revolutionary model and reinitiating violent incident tactics on the border. Since 1979 Honduras has let itself be readily persuaded by Washington that its territory constituted the forward defense against "Castroist influence." A sizeable share of military assistance credits is now arming Gracias A Dios Province. Greater numbers of troops have taken up positions along the Rio Coco, and in 1983 a modern military base 30 km from Puerto Lempira is slated to receive its fourth Honduran battalion. The American advisors have already set up quarters in the town's antiquated barracks.

The garrison's commander, Capt Leonel Luque,--encountered during his daily "jogging,"--does not conceal his hope of winning a new promotion in this operation. "We are going to see a real military region here," he said. "But note that this progress is also meant for civilians." A second doctor on the lagoon shore will be appointed, and the Indians will be able to take advantage of the road which will link the Atlantic coast and Tegucigalpa in the future. Puerto Lempira is going to emerge from the Middle Ages.

However, the Hondurans, and their silent partners, know that the region's strategic significance--its density--has more to do with its very isolation and its potential for preparing mischief in total secrecy. Caribbean pirates used to anchor there between boarding attacks on Spanish galleons. Traffickers of all eras--in former times it was livestock, nowadays it is cocaine--have shown a preference for this transamerican transit area, difficult of access but safer. Finally, the Americans have been able to appreciate these sleepy ports located off the beaten track. In 1924 Gen Manuel Bonilla landed at Puerto Cortez, further north, with support from the predecessor of the United Fruit Company. Exactly 30 years later the United States prepared in Honduras the intervention against Colonel Arbenz's progressive government in Guatemala. And in April 1961 Puerto Cabezas--a town just close by--was chosen as the departure point for the anti-Castro Bay of Pigs operation.

Puerto Lempira seems to be doomed to that kind of alchemic transformation. This time the mercenaries are the former members of President Somoza's National Guard who are preparing in Honduran territory for the reconquest of Nicaragua. They undoubtedly do not number 10,000 as the Managua authorities claim. They probably do not have 15 or so camps on the border as is asserted in Nicaragua. But they do exist. That obvious fact is even acknowledged by Honduras, which no longer denies the presence of political leaders in Tegucigalpa and of fighting men engaged in strange tasks near Puerto Lempira. In the port town's little streets one sees guerrillas in uniform but without weapons--never more than a few at a time. "Ridiculous, your information is just simply ridiculous," says Capt Luque conclusively, contending that he is in the best position to know if "the region is being used as a training camp." In the last few months several journalists have visited the border villages, and especially Rus Rus, a hamlet adjoining the only passable track and provided with a landing field on which Guatemalan army planes were allegedly sitting. No sign of life is discernible there. And the landing strip can only handle bush aircraft. That was one more rumor for you, like a hundred others, describing Gracias A Dios as ready for war.

In actuality, Somozist circles have in all likelihood small groups--a few hundred men total--in the province, mainly in the forests alongside the Rio Coco, tasked with getting themselves hired to work on ranches in the area or serving as smugglers and logistical support for the anti-Sandinist teams operating right on Nicaraguan territory. "Without a doubt Managua is wrong to exaggerate their size," confides a diplomat stationed in Tegucigalpa. "That is useful to the United States and Honduras which in the event of an act of aggression against Nicaragua would be able to swear on a stack of Bibles that the invaders were only anti-guerrilla-revolution fighters, the same ones whose massive presence had been asserted by Nicaragua."

For the time being the enemies of the Sandinist government have another advantage in the Atlantic province: the presence of nearly 10,000 Miskito refugees native to Nicaragua, who crossed the Rio Coco in January 1982 after the sometimes violent incidents which had brought the Indian community and the Sandinist border guards into conflict. Managua has acknowledged these incidents as its own mistakes in its attempts to integrate or enlist the Miskitos settled on the banks of the river (LE MONDE, 7-8 March 1982). But the harm was done and on the Honduran side great efforts are being made to stir up the resentful feelings of the refugees.

Manipulation

There are 8,500 refugees at Mocoron, a hamlet established by the Moravian Church about 100 km from Puerto Lempira. They are cared for and fed by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees ([UN]HCR) and some non-governmental agencies. This vast camp of tents and straw huts is the battleground for rumors of massacres, slaughters and abductions that are difficult to verify. The exiled Miskitos, long indifferent toward the character of the successive Managua governments, find themselves positioned in the center of an operation which aims to discredit the Sandinist junta in humanitarian terms.

As soon as the Indians arrived in Mocoron the American Government, with American public opinion quickly taking over from it, threw itself into a campaign of both denunciation of supposed Sandinist crimes and all-round assistance. For once refugees had been found that were on the good side. The [UN]HCR was offered the help of dozens of private humanitarian groups. Special envoys from the State Department were coming one after another to Mocoron to offer their services and budgetary aid. At Easter the Boston Fire-fighters arrived with trucks of clothes, medicines, and several journalists who hastened to collect the accounts of all the Sandinist crimes.

Nowadays American public opinion is convinced that the Miskitos are Central America's only refugees. Young Americans, their sails spread wide with gullibility, are coming to offer their labor during their vacation and have an adventure among the Indians, this time without any shame for their American conscience. The [UN]HCR is attempting to keep these all too dubious signs of interest under control and is amazed at the financial outlays granted: it has received 2.5 million dollars for the Miskitos, whereas American aid for the 300,000 Salvadoran refugees is limited to 6 million dollars.

The leader of the Miskito agitation is Mr Steaman Fagoth Muller, head of the Misurata movement (the association of the three Atlantic coast Indian ethnic groups), and he himself makes frequent trips to Miami. This former member of the Snadinist Parliament, denounced and imprisoned as a Somozist agent, has groups of guerrilla fighters on the Honduran coast and emcees "Radio 15 September," apparently with complete impunity. His men can be seen in olive green combat uniforms walking in the little streets of Puerto Lempira.

This freedom of movement sometimes causes him some harm: on Saturday 12 June when he was getting some fresh air on the terrace of Puerto Lempira's cafe in the company of Miskito militants--and, it is said, some Honduran soldiers--an unknown person threw a grenade which seriously injured his second in command. Upset by this assassination attempt for which no one has claimed responsibility, Mr Fagoth Muller left to get some rest in Miami.

[18 Aug 82 p 5]

[Part 2 by our special correspondent Marcel Niedergang of 2-part serialized article under overall heading "A People Torn Apart: The Miskito Indians": "II.--Nicaragua: The Achilles Heel"]

[Text] In an initial article, Philippe Boggio told how the Miskito Indians, who have fled Nicaragua were living, and have taken refuge in Honduras where they have been regrouped in the Mocoron camp (LE MONDE, 17 August). Marcel Niedergang shows the results of the "regrouping" policy put into practice in Nicaragua by the Sandinista authorities.

La Rosita (North Zelaya)--Maj William Ramirez gazes gloomily at the bumpy clearing where the makeshift camp of the Miskito Indians is spread out--the Miskito Indians "transferred" in January from their villages established on the Rio Coco, on the border with Honduras, to this patch of tropical forest in Nicaragua's Atlantic coast area. A few rustic wood huts at the top of a rise provide accomodation for the camp's approximately 30 Sandinist soldiers, the government technicians tasked with marking off boundaries of the future "community's" arable plots of land, and the male nurse from the very modests care center where the stock of medicines is obviously limited to a bare minimum.

At the foot of the rise, rudimentary shelters under plastic sheeting alternate with palm-roofed bamboo huts. The latter are more suited to the climate and were built by the Miskitos themselves while they are waiting for the site of their future village to be clearly marked out and prepared. The largest, sturdiest hut is the "bodega"--the storehouse where sacks of flour and rice and black beans brought from Managua are piled up.

The water supply point is 300 meters away. All around is dense, amgnificent forest that is not easy to penetrate. Puerto Cabezas on the Atlantic coast is 50 km to the east, and the Rio Coco, the "promised land" of the Miskitos, is a good hundred km of jungle to the north. Less than an hour by trail from what at first sight is appropriately called Wasminona Refugee Camp one arrives at the La Rosita gold mines, worked by Canadian and American companies in Somoza's time.

Major Ramirez is a shy and gruff giant, and is the man in charge of the Atlantic coast of Zelaya Department. When the northern part of the department was declared a "prohibited military area" in February, he left his Bluefields headquarters for La Rosita with two objectives: to organize the defense of the northern border in the face of the threats from the former Somozista guardsmen based in Honduras, and to supervise the resettlement of some 8,000 Miskitos in five camps similar to the Wasminona one, an arduous task the scope and dangers of which are clearly apparent out in that territory--tempering the "optimism" of Managua's official press to a considerable extent.

Wasminona's primary school--a few benches under a tent sheet--is so cramped that the camp's great number of children go "to class" in turn in 2-hour time blocks. The little Miskitos improve their Spanish at an improvised blackboard. They are lively and mischievous and, in fact, are already just about completely bilingual--just as are the adults that one meets in the camp.

Intelligent, open, warm, and curious--the Miskito men and women came here unwillingly in January from their far-away fillaves of Leymus, San Luis, Santa Fe and San Geronimo. They have the look of small peaceable farmers--no connection with the Indian tribes of South America's equatorial forests. Nothing distinguishes the Miskitos from the other "campesinos" (peasants) of Nicaragua's interior. They are short, frail, and often missing teeth: that comes from malnutrition and living on the margins of society.

The ones there in Wasminona used to live around their Moravian churches, fishing, cultivating plots of land on both sides of "their" river, ignoring that border which has become and may become even more of a war zone.

From their accounts--gathered unobtrusively and sometimes proving contradictory--it emerged that a number of them have still not understood or accepted the reasons for their army-imposed exodus. Like the old man from Leymus who missed "his 'finca' (farm), his hens, his cow" and who asserts that "everything was peaceful" where he lived. This was refuted by a young Miskito who reminded him of "three of four abductions in the village," and by a young woman from Santa Fe stated that on the contrary "there was growing insecurity" and that "the boys had to look for refuge in the 'monte' (hills)".

A Trying Situation

The evacuation order surprised them by its suddenness and its mandatory nature. No one reported any cruelty, but the march along the river and then in the forest for a week was trying. There is confirmation of the transfer of a certain number of women and children by helicopter. But, two and a half months after that distressing experience, a number of Wasminona refugees confide their hope "to return to the Rio Coco." When they speak of "their" river, their eyes shine. Besides, the serious border incidents which have taken place since November 1981, the abductions, the voluntary flights, and January's organized exodus have separated families, some members being in Nacaragua and others in Honduras.

"Yes, it is a trying situation," said Major Ramirez in his La Rosita PC [command post], the former canteen of the mine's American engineers. Some novels in English are still lying around in a bookcase. "They carried off the plans of the mine, which is closed down now," asserted the major. On the other hand, in Bonanza--two hours by trail from here--the gold mines are still in operation, and the little town, whose wooden houses rise in tiers up into the verdant hills, is clearly livelier than La Rosita which brings in mind a tropical and dusty Far West.

The resources of the army, and of the authorities, seem to be very limited: only four jeeps, one of them, in the courtyard, broken down with its wheels in the air. No radio contact. "I have to send a vehicle into the different camps in the area for every little thing," the major said with a sigh. The border with Honduras is long--280 km in this region, following the course of the Rio Coco. Consequently it is impossible to monitor it strictly. However, soon--and for the first time in Nicaragua's history--a road (which will be asphalted at a later date) is going to link Managua with Puerto Cabezas, passing through Bonanza and La Rosita.

The government's representatives stress their "firm determination" to successfully manage the reintegration of the Miskito population from the Rio Coco. The plans are ready and the funds, which are sizable, are granted. In the short term, it is a matter of providing subsistence for the 8,000 Miskitos, building decent housing, and giving them medical care and schools--and also laying out trails, non-existent at the moment, between the different camps and the main road to Puerto Cabezas. Individual plots of land must be given to families for growing staples. "I know the Rio Coco well," said a technician from Managua. "In the rainy season, the Miskitos floundered around in the mud and the doctor was three hours away by dugout canoe."

But the medium term plan of the authorities, the plan to enable the Miskitos to "benefit" from the agrarian reform by encouraging them to organize themselves into cooperatives in order to have larger areas of arable land, might well run up against the traditions of those groups of people used to working the land "as families." In any event, it is clear that today the Miskitos from the Rio Coco are a group of people totally supported by the government and that the total cost of this operation, according to the authorities themselves, "is not yet known."

The people who, in Managua, and particularly in Episcopal Conference circles, criticize the methods used for the transfer of the Miskitos, acknowledge that Nicaragua's leaders have every right to make decisions concerning national security. The Sandinist government itself says that the "Miskito case" is a hot topic of controversy and that the Atlantic coast is Nicaragua's "Achilles heel." The Miskitos themselves, whom everyone wishes well, seem in the first instance to be the victims of the tension mounting at the border.

COSTA RICAN AMBASSADOR ON TENSION IN REGION

PA292020 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Sep 82

[Text] Jesus Fernandez, Costa Rican ambassador to Nicaragua, has stressed that his country's government is concerned about the tension between Honduras and Nicaragua, since they are neighbors of his country. It is logical, the Costa Rican ambassador said, that we be concerned when Nicaraguan Government leaders publicly charge that they are on the brink of a confrontation.

Fernandez indicated that during the meeting between Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge and Panamanian President Ricardo de La Espriella they expressed satisfaction over the efforts for peace in Central America which have been carried out by the Venezuelan and Mexican presidents. He said that President Monge has promised not to let Costa Rican territory be used by armed counter-revolutionary movements to destabilize the Nicaraguan Government. Here is an interview with Costa Rican Ambassador Jesus Fernandez:

[Begin recording] [Fernandez] President Monge and Foreign Minister Volio have publicly expressed their satisfaction over the efforts undertaken by the Mexican and Venezuelan presidents to ease tensions in Central America, particularly with regard to Nicaragua's tense situation with Honduras. I reiterate President Monge and Foreign Minister Volio's remarks indicating that they view with great satisfaction these Venezuelan and Mexican efforts to ease tensions and to work for the solution of Central American problems within the framework of dialogue and nonviolence.

I want to state that President Monge has once again voiced the desire to keep Costa Rica neutral and not let its territory be used for operations by movements that seek to destabilize the Nicaraguan Government. President Monge's position is that Costa Rica should not be involved in any action to destabilize any government of the area.

[Question] How do you analyze the current situation in Central America?

[Answer] I think there is a very tense situation between Nicaragua and Honduras which we hope that, as the Nicaraguan and Honduran governments have stated, will not lead to a military action. I think that the good intentions of both governments are leading to the maintenance of peace. It is a situation that

concerns all of us and that involves all of us. I think that in the way the situation is being handled, things are improving and the disagreements will be solved peacefully.

[Question] Why does Costa Rica think that the Central American situation is worrying?

[Answer] Well, the Nicaraguan leaders have publicly said that there is evidence that we are on the brink of an armed confrontation. This must logically worry any country that loves peace and tranquility. Even more so when we are neighbors of Nicaragua and a war would be taking place near our border. This is logically worrying. As a country without an army and as a country which loves peace and tranquility we view with concern the possibility of an armed conflict. [End recording]

CSO: 3248/29

BARBADOS COMMENTATOR BLASTS ST KITTS-NEVIS LABOUR PARTY

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 11 Sep 82 p 7

[Article by E. L. C.]

[Text] The arrest of two high-ranking members of the St. Kitts Opposition Labour Party for incitement to violence should surprise nobody. Nor should the inevitable corollary to political campaigning which whips up resentment to established authority, and recommends that the Premier should be followed wherever he goes and his meetings stopped.

This corollary was given expression on Wednesday before last when the Supreme Court building in Basseterre was deliberately set afire and destroyed. The building, a landmark for two centuries, also housed the Public Library, the Registry, the Law Library and the Judges' Chambers.

The reason why we should not be surprised lies in the history of the St. Kitts Labour Party and its attitude to law and order. This attitude has been made abundantly clear down the years, and has already been a cause for grave concern to the legal profession in the Caribbean.

You will recall that the Barbados Bar Association, some years ago, protested the refusal of the St. Kitts Government to allow its President, Mr. Jack Dear, entry. He was deemed an "undesirable visitor" when he was engaged as Counsel for the defence in a conspiracy

case brought by that Government — a case which was later abandoned!

You may also recall that the St. Lucia Bar Association when, upon losing two criminal cases brought against opponents, the St. Kitts-Nevis Cabinet called an emergency session of the House of Assembly for the sole purpose of passing a resolution declaring no confidence in the administration of justice in the State.

There are other examples of the war which has been going on for some time between the St. Kitts Labour Party and Justice. There was, for example, the deportation from St. Kitts of a lawyer, John Kelsick, a native of Montserrat, who had long lived and practised law in St. Kitts, and who owned property there. No reason was given for this action. But we have come to expect such actions in the Caribbean, not only in St. Kitts, of deportation without charge or trial.

There was also similar treatment meted out to Jenner Armour, a Dominican lawyer engaged in the defence of a client in St. Kitts, who was threatened with imprisonment if he did not leave the island forthwith.

There was the banishment from St. Kitts of a group of Barbadians suddenly and without rhyme or reason, except the distorted workings

of the St. Kitts Labour Party mentality. These deportees include Lawrence Williams, Frank Humphrey, Major Errol Sealy and Cyril Birkett. When John Massiah went to the airport to see them off, he was unceremoniously put on the same plane and shipped out as well!

There was Robert Bradshaw's statement in Parliament that the House of Assembly was the highest court in the land, demonstrating a complete misunderstanding, probably deliberate, of the island's Constitution, which provides for a Supreme Court.

Further, there was the occasion when, during a State of Emergency, declared by the same Labour Government, prohibiting all demonstrations and political activity, the same Labour Party staged a demonstration against High Court Judge, Justice St. Bernard!

And there was the occasion when the St. Kitts Labour Party Government demanded the immediate removal of Mr. Justice Hewlett, following his finding that Dr. Kennedy Simmonds had been lawfully elected to the House of Assembly.

The fact is that the St. Kitts Labour Party, regardless of the fact that it has a few supposedly qualified lawyers within its ranks, has no respect for law, justice or

order; only for power. And power they mean to get, any legal barriers or processes notwithstanding.

In these recent campaigns seeking to force elections before independence, the language has apparently been fiery and incautious, and some of the statements quoted have been most disturbing. For example, it is claimed that one speaker announced that 'Labour leaders in this country have resolved to kill'. When electioneering comes down to that level, it is high time that citizens gird themselves to fight for right.

What really worries me, however, is less the shenanigans of the St. Kitts Labour Party than the support which it will get from similar

political organisations in Barbados and elsewhere, devoted to the principle of power at any price.

There are people so thirsty for power that they knowingly preach violence. They are not concerned with the possibility of anarchy, because they believe that they can fool the people sufficiently to be given the task of leading the recovery from chaos.

They know that glib promises are taken at their face value by simple people, and they have no compunction about fooling the innocent who accept their assurances without thought or suspicion.

They talk about the redressing of imagined wrongs, and play upon the gullibility of the unfortunate and lowly-placed by blaming

the only system which offers them any real hope. The cry is for equality, but it will soon be discovered, if ever they come to power, that some are always a lot more equal than others.

They spread the gospel of a false economics, well disproven wherever it has been tried. And they shy away from explaining that the only way in which this glorious new paradise can be achieved is by coercion and force.

They have succeeded in Grenada, which was easy picking because of a rule little different from theirs; they nearly succeeded in Dominica; they had a trial run in St. Lucia. But have we really learned any lessons from these events? I doubt it. The human mind believes what it wants to believe.

BRIEFS

BARBADOS-TRINIDAD TAX ROW--The soft drink industry's export of canned drinks to Barbados is reportedly fizzling out because of a new consumption tax imposed by the Barbados Government. The imposition, two weeks ago, of the tax of 50 cents on each can, an obvious measure to protect that Caricom country's own soft drink industry, is expected to cost Trinidad and Tobago manufacturers millions of dollars in annual sales. This new development has caused a great deal of concern among manufacturers here who are already caught in a local "prices war". And one manufacturer, Bottlers Limited, is calling on the Ministry of Industry and Commerce to take retaliatory action imposing a similar tax on foreign canned aerated drinks and fruit juices. Nestor Baiz, Bottlers Limited, Managing Director, disclosed that his company's exports of around 8,000 cartons monthly to Barbados have "now come to an end" because of the tax. It is understood that, technically, the Barbados Government is not contravening the Caribbean Treaty, which allows goods manufactured in the region duty free treatment, since the tax is a consumer tax and not duty. [Excerpts] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 8 Sep 82 p 4]

ARGENTINE CREDIT TO EL SALVADOR--The Argentine Central Bank has granted the San Salvador city government a 2,741,735-colon credit for the purchase of 20 garbage trucks. [PA181020 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 9 Sep 82 pp 3, 15]

CSO: 3248/26

TOURIST ARRIVALS SHOW INCREASE IN FIRST 7 MONTHS OF 1982

Bridgetown. ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 10 Sep 82 p 3

[Text]

ST JOHN'S Antigua
Thursday (CANA) — As visitor arrivals in most other Caribbean islands continue on a downward trend, Antigua and Barbuda reported a 6.3 per cent rise in the number of tourists coming here during the first seven months of the year, compared with the corresponding period in 1981.

Barbados yesterday said its tourist traffic was down 12.4 per cent for the seven months.

Official Antiguan statistics indicated 56 237 visitors had arrived here up to the end of July against the 52 896 who came between January and July 1981. The tourist influx from all the country's traditional markets — Canada, the United States and Europe — all recorded increases.

There were 24 174 visitors up to the end of July from the United States compared with a recorded figure of 21 638 for the same period last year.

Canadian tourists numbered 6 558 compared with the 5 848 last year.

In the case of Europe, the figure recorded was 3 972 compared with 3 686 for the same period last year.

The markets which showed a decrease were the United

Kingdom and the "any other" category which includes Caribbean nationals who visit the country.

Tourist arrivals from the U.K. were 7 082 for the period under review against 7 505 for 1981.

In the "any other" category, arrivals at the end of July stood at 13 706 compared with 14 219 the same period last year.

But the statistics showed there was a drop in the number of cruise ships which called at the country's deep water harbour up to the end of July.

For this year, 61 ships called compared with 87 for the same period last year. Cruise ship passenger arrivals also recorded a drop.

Up to the end of July, 44 632 passengers arrived here compared with 74 944 for the same period last year.

The only month in which an increase in cruise ship passengers was recorded over the same period last year was in June.

Meanwhile, local hotels have reported a drop of between eight and 10 per cent in occupancy for the 1981 winter season which they blame on the current worldwide recession, high interest rates and the fact that vacationers

are now taking their holidays much closer to home.

For this year's summer season, the hotels have also reported a drop in occupancy of between 30 and 40 per cent.

Speculating on the upcoming winter season, President of the Antigua Hotels and Tourist Association Brian Gonsalves says he is not very optimistic about an improvement.

"Unfortunately, I don't think it is going to be much better. I am not optimistic...but I don't see any major change in the present trend. I think we are in for a poor winter season," he said.

The Hotel Association said that in an effort to improve on the forecasts for the coming winter season, local hoteliers in collaboration with BWIA, Trinidad and Tobago's national airline, would undertake a promotional tour to Canada later this month.

Mr. Gonsalves said the tour, which begins on September 25, was aimed at boosting the hotel occupancy figures, but he noted that Canada was now going through a very difficult period and for Canadians, the Caribbean was not particularly popular as a tourist destination under the present circumstances.

POLITICAL CENTER SEEKS NEW LEADERSHIP

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 19 Sep 82 pp 8-9

[Article from "Political Week" column: "The Center Seeks a Candidate"]

[Text] The Ideal Profile

The civilian laboratories that have monitored the development of the military process that began in 1976 have started to outline the profile of the ideal candidate for president representing the centrist factions of the political spectrum.

The following are the basic traits that have been defined so far:

- 1) Must be a man who is clearly identified with the doctrinary banners unfurled by the Process at its outset, though distinctly divorced from the successive stages of implementation;
- 2) Must be able to convey a good image among young people;
- 3) Concurrently, his background must offer security to traditional sectors;
- 4) Must be able to cope effectively with the mass media and must be skillful in engaging other candidates in sharp public debate;
- 5) In light of the above points, this man must be a civilian, inasmuch as a military officer who meets all of these conditions would be difficult to find;
- 6) Should not be a traditional politician.

An Audible Voice

As a glance at this noteworthy list of political virtues shows, a new awareness is developing among those who were initially friends of the Process. We are talking about a less and less secret voice, and it seems to be advising the moderate civilian sectors to move quickly away from the slope down which the military government has begun to slide.

Actually, the issue calls for a more in-depth historical look at the various underlying motivations for the civilian-military pact that gave rise to the coup d'etat in 1976.

Obviously, the divorce that is in the offing today shows that yesteryear's common ground was facilitated by the need to react to the chaos in which the country found itself but that this solidarity was not enough to develop a joint, coherent political program that would offer solutions.

Perhaps this was because at that point the Armed Forces monopolized the responsibility for restoring law and order, while one of the essential motivations of the civilian forces that went along with the military process from its outset was the hope that they would see the birth of the elusive "third force" that could succeed Radicalism and Peronism.

Today, in light of the political failure of the Process, many civilian leaders of this third force accuse the military of having absolutely no political sensitivity.

"Why is it," one of them wondered a short while ago, "that the Process has always had military men in the Interior Ministry? You need only look at Brazil, where the military government has kept the ministry in civilian hands for the last 18 years, to realize the serious mistake made here."

These are precisely the men who claim today that the military has no right to haul down the banners of the Process, simply because they are not their sole owners, and that the new force must be created "with them, without them or in spite of them."

Who's the New Man?

But along with their criticism of the men in uniform, they acknowledge self-critically that none of the factions of this persuasion are really of a mind to develop joint programs and support common leaders.

"These factions are not far apart but they are different," Emilio Perina is wont to say in the unofficial talks that he has with politicians and military officers in his status as a theorist of some of the Process's main political traits.

Both for reasons of timing and practical chances, therefore, the conclusion is that a "new man" acceptable to all is needed.

To many, and perhaps the most anxious, of those committed to this option, this individual already has a first and last name. The somewhat insistent talk is of Nicanor Costa Mendez, Alejandro Orfila, Adalbert Krieger Vasena and in recent hours, with even greater emphasis, Julio Oyhanarte.

The latter, a prominent constitutionalist and a member of the Supreme Court during Frondizi's administration, almost perfectly fills the ideal profile outlined at the beginning of this article.

In particular, no one can say of him that he is either a friend or an enemy of the Process.

Now that his name is being mentioned in too many nerve centers of our politics to ignore it, perhaps this is the time to recall the distinctions that he made in stating his position on the 1976 political-military movement.

Those who claim to know his inner thoughts on the events of the last 10 years recall that in mid-1979 he refused to join the government from his diplomatic post because he felt that it lacked a clear-cut political program, though this did not prevent him from warmly acknowledging the Armed Forces' efforts against subversion.

But even above and beyond this recent background, and as one of those "who's who" card files usually consulted on such occasions reads, "Dr Oyhanarte has always been considered a major figure in reserve in national politics."

Others with retentive memories will recall, furthermore, that his name became a household word on the occasion of General Viola's troublesome appointment as the nation's president.

A Political Assumption

Let us leave aside names for the moment (this being a no doubt premature exercise) and take a quick look at some of the main assumptions on which the "third force" plan is based.

One of the assumptions is that the elections will lead to a deadlocked Electoral College in which none of the political parties will be too far ahead of the others. This, in turn, is partly based on the supposition that coexistence between the moderate and combative factions of the traditional forces will become increasingly difficult and that as a result the leftist factions will wind up supporting the candidate of another party. This could be Oscar Alende or someone like him.

According to this scenario, it will be the nature of the candidate rather than the merits of the political platform that will be decisive in overcoming the potential resistance of Radical and Peronist voters.

The Mass Media

The plan is also based on the certainty that the influence of the mass media, especially television, will be decisive in this election.

"Whichever party uses television the best during the campaign will get its candidate in," a strategist of the political center went so far as to say, after recalling that Peron attributed much of his success in the 24 February 1946 election to radio.

Within this modern approach to the relationship between the electorate and its future government leaders, the desirable thing would be to limit the election campaign to no more than a dozen TV debates in which the candidates would argue various issues at length.

This is why one of the requirements for the candidate is that he "look good on the screen."

Such considerations surely have something to do with the concern that some levels of the Multiparty Group have been showing lately over the cloud that has obscured the current process of returning radio and TV stations to private hands.

Indeed, the suspicion that an attempt is being made to set up a radio and television network in service to a specific political program has forced numerous politicians to think about a joint reaction.

In this regard, some leaders are prepared to promote an interparty agreement, similar to the one that was hammered out when talk began about privatizing the subsoil. Such an agreement would caution that any trumped up handover of mass media would be immediately reviewed by the future constitutional government.

Dissuading Manrique

The biggest obstacle to the smooth running of this operation, which includes the consolidation of an "independent candidate," is unquestionably Francisco Manrique.

At least this is what certain leaders of the Popular Federalist Force (FUFEPO) and Popular Line who back the idea think. They are convinced that nothing will dissuade the head of the Federal Party from running for president.

A good illustration of Manrique's determination to hold on to his leadership was his express disavowal this week of recent statements by the former coordinator of his party, Dr Alberto Robredo.

This episode seems to have culminated a lengthy confrontation between the two leaders that cannot be explained solely by their personality differences; it suggests, rather, profoundly different organizational and strategic approaches.

After leaving his posts in the party, Robredo has let it be known that although he is not planning to encourage the formation of an internal faction of the Federal Party, his plans do not include abandoning politics either.

To judge by the terms of his last public letter to Manrique, we would assume that he will continue his activities from some setting that is far removed from the Process. In the letter he accuses Manrique of being an "autocrat" and of engaging "in talks to form a national alliance with leaders who are identified with the adverse actions that the Process has embarked on."

The lengthy list of facts that, in Robredo's judgment, demonstrate Manrique's sudden backing of the government includes the presence of two Federal Party leaders in high-level official posts and the recent return to the party of the former Buenos Aires government minister, Guillermo Fernandez Gill.

Nevertheless, Robredo has gone out of his way to make it clear that he will remain completely outside any internal dispute.

Rife with Dangers

The strangest thing about the plans that certain levels of the government are engaged in is that they seem divorced from the present juncture, which is rife with alarmist rumors and odd and dangerous developments.

In this regard, the turmoil that has been created by the simultaneous outbreak of the Alemann-Massera scandal and the arrest of the head of the Propaganda 2 lodge, Licio Gelli, threatens to have an unforeseen impact.

The former finance secretary surely did not expect his settling of accounts with the former commander in chief of the Navy to wind up being the spark that could ignite the powder keg.

It is obvious that Alemann's move, if it was for personal reasons, has been transcended by mere circumstances or by the action of "a black hand handpicked by the 'establishment,' which does not want to lose ground before a complete turnaround of the government's economic policy," a ranking official in the Executive Branch told LA NACION last night.

From this perspective, the attack on Admirals Massera and Lacoste would only be the first stage (a sort of warning shot) in a wideranging campaign against the Armed Forces designed to dissuade them from encouraging investigations into alleged financial crimes.

Given the atmosphere created by this bloody battle between men who have worked within the Process, an authorized military source told this paper yesterday that the country needs a "reinsurance mechanism to prevent such destabilizing operations," along with a calm investigation of the World Soccer Cup, Holmberg, Hidalgo Sola, and Propaganda 2 cases and "even of the forgotten Sajan case," the source added enigmatically.

It will be in this same atmosphere, rarified even further by the recent reappearance in public of Lt Gen Alberto Numa Laplane, that the active generals will deliberate tomorrow.

The former army commander's remark that "the military must not, does not know how to and cannot" shatter the institutional order" will certainly be a topic of discussion at their meeting.

It is taken for granted that the commander of the First Corps, General Trimarco, will arrive in time for the deliberations, exactly 24 hours before the recomposition of the Military Junta.

Trimarco is returning from Mexico, where he represented the army at Mexico's celebration of its national holiday. According to accounts that are still stubbornly circulating in spite of the denials, his trip included a secret stopover at which he contacted the head of the Pentagon.

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CSO: 3348/4

BIGNONE'S OPTIONS LIMITED, SAYS WRITER

Buenos Aires LA NUEVA PROVINCIA in Spanish 10 Sep 82 p 6

[Article by Raul Cardoso]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 September--At least as of this date, the Executive Branch is as determined to have Argentine resort to the International Monetary Fund's "standby credit" as other sectors are determined to oppose such a move.

Observers contend that the man who could wind up being hurt the most by this touchy issue is President Reynaldo Bignone, inasmuch as he has given rise not only to a "civilian opposition front" but also to an opposition front in the military, which is infinitely more troublesome for the government.

It is certainly significant that early this week, as news came out of Toronto about the standby option and its amount, \$1.7 billion, political gossip circles were buzzing with rumors that a coup by Nicolaides was imminent.

Such speculation was exaggerated, it is true, but it is no less true that there was a certain degree of logic to this alarmist account. According to this reasoning, the commander in chief of the Army would head up a military backlash to the Economy Ministry's plans and remove Bignone from the Casa Rosada.

In the wake of such a move would come an overhaul of the Military Junta, the appointment of a new chief of state with input from the three branches and a 180 degree turn in the Process's policy.

The turnaround would reportedly include the nationalization of the financial system (excluding foreign banks, like Mexico), a massive wage increase, price controls and the inevitable "moratorium" on the nation's foreign debt. It would be nothing more and nothing less than what the progressive European press would call a "revolution."

Such a blueprint could be termed "political fantasy," but even so it would not be completely out of the question. There is a faction of the military government (General Flouret is a case in point) that holds a similar, albeit somewhat diluted line of thought.

We could say that the newspaper reports from Toronto were the catalysts for this sector's reactions. Furthermore, the removal of Jorge Caminotti as undersecretary of foreign commerce (he was held responsible for the leak about a nationalization) only rounded out and confirmed the overall picture.

This is one of the reasons why some political parties, such as Peronism and Radicalism, were restrained in expressing their opposition to the standby arrangement. It is one thing to oppose the option on principle, but it is another, for the Multiparty Group at least, to endanger Bignone and his promise of elections.

Both because of the upcoming elections and for philosophical reasons, the Integration and Development Movement took a more clear-cut stand on this issue, as its top echelon came out in favor of the decision to accede to the IMF's demands.

According to a number of official sources, Bignone's options are very limited:

Either he abandons the idea of standby credit and plunges his government into an internal crisis (the resignation of Jorge Wehbe as economy minister is taken for granted in that case, for example) or, as he seems determined to do, he appeals to the civilian front to support or, as the case may be, tolerate the IMF's unpleasant demands, advancing the argument that otherwise it will be impossible to achieve institutionalization in the country.

It is not clear, however, how he will secure the same type of understanding among ranking military officers, who are increasingly reluctant to trust the solutions that Argentine liberalism has to offer.

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CSO: 3348/4

PERONISTS HESITANT TO ANNOUNCE EARLY CANDIDACY

Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 20 Sep 82 p 5

[Text] The Candidates

After an initial surge of euphoria, the issue of candidacies seems to have been "put on ice" in the Peronist Party.

It's not that Peronist leaders have suddenly tabled the controversial issue for good. Talks are continuing, but with greater reserve and discretion.

The reported reason is that these leaders have seen indications that the first to launch their candidates (or the first to encourage or allow candidacies) are also the first to burn out.

The prevailing approach now among the various factions seems to be to strengthen their own positions with a view towards the "internal battle" and to begin serious talks about candidates and potential alliances only when they have an accurate idea of their strength in the future national congress.

As far as alliances are concerned, nothing should be ruled out this early, in particular because for the time being it is hard to tell whether a given faction can become representative enough to impose its own candidates without negotiations with other groups.

The Movement of Unity, Doctrine and Solidarity, which is advocating Deolindo Bittel's reelection as head of the party, has not decided on a presidential ticket. Antonio Cafiero's name is, of course, mentioned particularly often, but there are also those who feel that Bittel himself could head up the ticket.

But who could say for sure that Italo Luder could not emerge as a compromise candidate? Although he has little organized party support of his own, he would be in a position to win support both from the Bittel faction and from the Robledo faction and even from the factions advocating one-person rule, which are led, among others, by Roberto Ares, Juan Carlos Beni and Alejandro Alvarez.

In any event, the Robledo faction (which backs coordinated action) continues to rally support, especially in the strong districts in the capital, the province of Buenos Aires and Santa Fe, putting forward Angel Federico Robledo as the representative of an up-to-date Peronism.

The same banner is being unfurled by the Doctrinary Reaffirmation Movement, with Raul Matera, and the abolition [amortizadora] faction, which is headed up by the former governor of Corrientes, Julio Romero, who is preparing his own tactical retreat to allow his son Humberto to come to the fore. Who could say for sure that these two "anti-autocratic" factions could not form an alliance?

On the other extreme, the "ultraverticalists," led by Lazaro Roca and Juan Labake, among others, have reportedly offered their nomination for party president to Eloy Camus and are keeping Senator Jose Humberto Martiarena in the wings to head up their presidential ticket.

And presidential nominations are not all that is at stake either. There are a number of indications that 62 Organizations would like to round out the ticket with a trade union candidate for vice president.

Even before the Peronist union machine has taken shape, however, a number of names have already begun to circulate, such as Juan Jose Taccone and Jose Rodriguez. Both belong to the Unity, Solidarity and Organization faction, which has the clear backing of the unions in the CGT [General Labor Confederation]-Brasil, while the unions belonging to the CGT-Azopardo identify predominantly with the Robledo faction.

8743

CSO: 3348/4

REPORT ON NAVAL INDUSTRY PUBLISHED

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 12 Sep 82 p 6

[Text] "AFNE [State Shipyards and Naval Factories] is a government agency established with government capital 47 years ago; in 1970 it became a corporation and began to employ the criteria and approach of the private enterprise system in its management to meet the requirement for efficiency. Since its creation, it has accomplished important modernization and expansion projects which facilitated the attainment of production lines and systems in accord with the technological development features that were incorporated." This comment comes from the enterprise's board of directors on the occasion of Shipbuilding Industry Day and this article expresses the opinion of these men.

It is the mission of AFNE to channel tasks of a manufacturing nature, which the government accomplishes through the Navy, by means of the Rio Santiago Shipyard and the Azul Naval Explosives Plant, pertaining to the development and exploitation of all activities inherent in the shipbuilding industry in general, in the manufacture of explosives, as well as all related activities and those activities which deal with that industry for the main purpose of taking care of the nation's requirements and especially those of the Navy and the Merchant Marine.

The enterprise's main concern is the full utilization of the installed capacity in all of its plants and to reduce the construction time and the man-hours used so that the total cost may be competitive on an international level. On the basis of contracts signed during the preceding fiscal year, it is anticipated that the level of all of the shipyard sectors can be maintained until the middle of this year. This estimate was confirmed at this time in connection with the completion of a series of projects.

As a matter of fact, after the launching of the MV "Centurion" on 28 June, slip No 2 has remained idle. Following the launching of the tanker now on slip No 1--the biggest in the country--that slip will likewise become inactive.

This critical situation makes it indispensable to get new contracts to employ the currently idle manpower.

It must be pointed out that it is not only the Rio Santiago shipyard which is suffering from the effects of the lack of new orders but that the many sub-contractors and suppliers, who contribute to the development of the shipbuilding

industry, are similarly hard-hit. Today we have a very efficient group of subcontractors and suppliers whom we must try to keep working. The amount of this contribution is equivalent to 30 percent of the total output value.

Industry's Situation

The shipbuilding industry's survival crisis is not essentially different from the one involving any other of the country's production sectors. The nation's shipyards, both private and government, in recent years made a tremendous effort to improve their production infrastructure and their organization in order to adjust to the requirements of the times, in other words, to produce with international-level efficiency.

In each of the enterprises it has been possible to make significant progress and the available capacity is ready for use both to meet the domestic needs and for exports. If we cannot maintain the activity pace, then the achievements in productivity and efficiency will be for naught and it will again be necessary to start an arduous and expensive recovery effort all over again.

Concerning these production possibilities, we can look at certain aspects which clearly illustrate the issue involved in view of the size of the country's merchant marine and the logical necessities of its renewal rhythm, so that the installed capacity of the shipyards could for the most part be taken up by that demand. Experience tells us on the other hand that the country's merchant marine has been fundamentally replaced and has grown with the addition of vessels that were built to a great extent abroad and due to the importing of second-hand units. A small number of units was built domestically but that does not even account for one-third of the country's shipbuilding industry capacity.

The contracts that were signed several years ago with European countries--where a large number of vessels was built--helped solve the serious problems encountered by the shipbuilding industry of those countries which managed effectively to protect themselves in this respect, using all of the incentives necessary to attain their export targets.

As we analyze the export market, we must point out that the country offers adequate financing. However, no industry can operate only on the basis of exports and this is true even more so when that industry has not yet been able to win the international prestige required for that. This situation is worsened if we consider the difficulty and expense involved in getting into markets which normally are supplied by other sources.

The example of Brazil is highly enlightening: It produces ten times more than the Republic of Argentina and it exports one-third of its output; the other two-thirds go to its fleet.

Looking at Argentina's shipbuilding industry, there are some aspects in the export process which delay and interfere with that effort. Furthermore, in combining the payment for a series of products, we equated the export of vessels with other, totally different goods. In this sense, it must be pointed out

that the time required for the construction of a ship--the added value provided by the shipyard and all of the subcontractors involved, the total value of the unit, and competition on the international market--create a situation in which the capital asset item called "ship" becomes an undertaking very different from other goods produced for export.

This is why the decline in the returns from 25 percent down to 10 percent (later on increased to 14 percent and currently once again reduced to 10 percent) does not promote the removal of obstacles that slow the shipyards down in terms of their need for exporting. We should not be astonished that these incentives for export do exist and, particularly, the export of vessels, since even the developed countries with highly efficient shipbuilding industries protect and stimulate those industries with subsidies for export.

Argentina's shipbuilding industry is well equipped and capable of tackling any type of construction work, both military and merchant, and it provides employment for a wide range of workers, technicians, and engineers throughout the land. But if we were to have to continue with the severe restriction on national orders for ships and the very slim possibility of sales abroad, then we would run the risk of witnessing the destruction of that industry in spite of the enormous effort it had cost the nation to put that industry on its feet.

Right now, without any further delay, we must draft and carry out a medium-range and long-range shipbuilding plan and we must provide every support necessary for participation in the international market with possibilities of success; this can in some way be considered a privilege because it is the norm in countries which know all about the great importance of the national shipbuilding industry and its influence on the economy's general growth.

It is possible to obtain important lines of credit for ship operators abroad but there are severe restrictions on credits for Argentine shipowners because, particularly for the case of private Argentine shipowners, the National Merchant Marine Fund was deprived of its real resources when, at the end of 1980, all taxes other than customs duties were taken away from it. However, the ships owned by these operators can--by virtue of the shipping rates they get on the international market--generate a return in terms of foreign exchange which will be significantly higher than what we get through the sale of units financed for ship operators abroad; in some cases this actually helps them in open competition with Argentina's own traffic.

The proper response to this problem involves harmonious coordination between shipbuilding intended to meet domestic needs and shipbuilding earmarked for export.

Naval Vessels

Looking at the area of naval shipbuilding, we must point out that, until a short time ago, the available infrastructure was used sporadically and to a low degree. The construction of the missile destroyer ARA [Argentine Navy] "Santisima Trinidad" enabled shipyard personnel to achieve the highest capacity in the construction of modern naval vessels and this practical training

experience--which also involves private subcontractors--enabled AFNE without any difficulty to tackle the construction of the series of six Meko 140-type corvettes. The first unit has already been launched and another two are in the midst of the prefabrication and assembly process.

Rio Santiago Shipyard

The Rio Santiago Shipyard occupies approximately 40 hectares for industrial activities, with a vast reserve area for future expansion.

Production activities are organized in two industrial sectors: Shipbuilding and machine-building. In shipbuilding, the output capacity makes it possible to process 40,000 tons [illegible in original] of steel per year. Construction work is done with the help of the most modern manufacturing methods and a large capacity is available for these projects, covering a broad range of designs, both for naval vessels and for merchant vessels as well as "offshore" construction and machine-building.

These were the points raised by AFNE board of directors members on the occasion of Shipbuilding Industry Day, a day which must always be highly significant for all Argentines.

5058

CSO: 3010/2356

NEED TO REINSTATE SHIPBUILDING FUND STRESSED

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 12 Sep 82 p 13

[Text] During the luncheon on Shipbuilding Industry Day the secretary of maritime interests, RAdm Ciro Garcia and the president of the Argentine Shipbuilding Industry Federation, Enrique R. Ramilo agreed on the need for restoring the National Fund of the Merchant Marine.

"The situation in the shipyards, in view of the almost total absence of a domestic demand, was and continues to be characterized by anxiety to the point that, if some contracts had not been signed for the export of vessels and naval devices, a significant number of establishments would have had to close their doors and would have disappeared from the scene," said Enrique R. Ramilo, president of FINA (Argentine Shipbuilding Industry Federation).

The entrepreneur--who emphasized that he had recently gone to Brazil and that he is today leaving on a mission to Peking to study export possibilities--suggested improving the foreign trade processing procedures, restoring the National Fund of the Merchant Marine, getting orders for the construction of fishing vessels, solving the problem of the contract deadlock, and adapting the application of price coordination to the sector.

Maritime interests secretary RAdm Ciro Garcia pointed out that the immediate, most important objective in his area is the restoration of the National Fund of the Merchant Marine which had been established until 1981 by Law 19.870, so as to have real resources to make it possible to tackle the construction of units for the merchant marine in accordance with the structure and development of the country's foreign trade.

Rear Admiral Garcia spoke during the celebration of Shipbuilding Industry Day held in the Argentine Automobile Club. He said that the secretariat under his direction is selecting ship operators who are negotiating for loans from the fund so that they may be invited to participate in private competition for their projects and so that the shipyards may get a certain work load quota for the next year. He described the current situation as "serious not desperate."

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COUNTRY SECTION

ARGENTINA

BRIEFS

ANTARCTIC COMMANDER--Capt Jose Amauri assumed joint Antarctic command. The ceremony was held at Basin A, in front of the icebreaker "Admiral Irizar." The chief of the joint chiefs of staff Vice Adm Leopoldo Suarez del Cerro presided over the ceremony which was held in this connection. [Text] [Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 12 Spe 82 p 13] 5058

CSO: 3010/2356

JUNE ELECTION IRREGULARITIES CHARGED; LEGAL ACTION TAKEN

PLP Rally

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 7 Sep 82 pp 1, 8

[Article by Gladstone Thurston]

[Text]

PROGRESSIVE Liberal Party Fox Hill, MP, Frank Edgecombe, has accused the Free National Movement's candidate in that constituency Fred Ramsey of irregularities stemming from the June 10 general elections.

Mr Edgecombe said he is investigating reports that 12 Opposition supporters allegedly voted in constituencies other than those in which they were ordinarily resident.

Those points were disclosed last night at a New Frontier Rally by the PLP held at Windsor Park and attended by some 3,000 supporters. Edgecombe's election to the House of Assembly is being protested by Mr Ramsey, his opponent in the June 10 general elections.

The FNM is also protesting Charles Carter's election in Holy Cross. Independent candidate Norman Solomon is protesting Peter Bethel's election in St John's. Edgecombe, Carter and Bethel were called on last night to comment on the various petitions and several allegations were made.

The PLP is protesting before the Election Court FNM victories in Yamacraw (won by Mrs Janet Bostwick), Carmichael (won by Frank

Watson), Pine Ridge (won by Cecil Wallace Whitfield), High Rock (won by Maurice Moore), and Marco City (won by C A Smith).

One feature common to all eight applications concerns the transfer of voters from one constituency to the other after the register of voters closed on March 31, 1982. The FNM, from the outset, said that that was illegal. The Attorney General's office argued in favour of the transfer.

"Now that the FNM started this ball game," Prime Minister Lynden Pindling told the meeting, "obviously we couldn't just sit down there and let the fellows throw blows at us and don't fight back."

"So what we did, we took their very same argument (the transfer of voters) and used it back on them. If it was good for Tom, it was good for Henry. So in the event that the transfers were not the right thing to do, then of course we have something going too."

Official returns published following the elections showed that Edgecombe won with 1,079 votes. Ramsey got 1,073 votes. Lewis Symonette of the Vanguard Party got 12 votes.

Charles Carter introduced himself as "the undisputed boss in Holy Cross and at the end of the day I shall stand in front of you at another

semester (of the University of Wulff Road) as the undisputed boss of Holy Cross."

Carter indicated that there may be more to the allegations about misconduct during the elections than meets the eye. The PLP, he said, is still investigating.

In the Holy Cross constituency, official returns showed Carter winning with 1,252 votes. Parker collected 1,243 votes. Elvis Carey of the Commonwealth Democratic Party got 13 votes.

Boasting about his slim victory in St John's, Bethel said: "This beating of the combined Opposition forces took place in their most treasured strong-hold. Not only did we beat the UBP we beat the FNM."

Bethel said he put together a team in St John's to investigate matters alleged in Solomon's petition for the court to review the results.

"We know that more than 17 voters were transferred into St John's from elsewhere," Bethel said. "Why Norman chose only 17 is very interesting to me. I would suspect that all the voters whom he is claiming did not have the right to vote, he believes they voted for him. However, if 17 of the transferred voters were not entitled to vote for me, it

means that the others were also not entitled to vote for him (Solomon)."

Bethel said his team is waiting for Solomon to disclose names of the persons he said were under age or not ordinarily resident in St John's or those who were transferred out of St John's or those who were not incapacitated when they voted.

"When he supplies us with this information I would be able to come back here and fill you in a little further with respect to the situation in St John's," Bethel said. "I can assure you that so far our investigations have turned up a number of things which will depict the method of campaign Norman Solomon and his people held in St John's for a period of years ... the method which he used to get people to pledge their allegiance.

"In the meantime we are investigating reports of (other matters) over votes in Harbour Island, Spanish Wells, Current, Bluff and Current Island which influenced over 60 people to

vote for Norman Solomon, but to no avail any how."

Official results of the St John's constituency show Bethel winning with 906 votes. Solomon got 896 votes a margin of just ten votes.

"On June 10," Mr Pindling said, "we won (the election) and we won big. On June 11, the FNM said we cheated, and so they said they were going to challenge the elections in a number of districts. We thought they were going to challenge everything, but obvious they could only challenge two or three."

Mr Pindling then explained the party's view on the transfer of voters. The common feature on all the election petitions is the fact that some people voted who had been transferred after March 31, 1982 - the date on which the register closed for new persons to register.

"All those petitions are saying that not only were those registers closed to allow any person to register but it was also closed from allowing me,

who was registered in one constituency already, to transfer to another constituency," Mr Pindling said. "Our view was that if a man was already registered and moved to another constituency, he had the right to transfer and that was not a new registration but a correction of the register, otherwise you might find that people would not have been allowed to vote.

"That was our view, but the court may say that that is wrong. But if the court says that that is wrong in Holy Cross, Fox Hill and St John's then it is also wrong in Carmichael, in Yamacraw in ... you see where I'm coming from. It can't be wrong in one place and right in the next.

"When the elections were over we won 32 and they won 11. We were prepared to let bygones be bygones and that was that. They (FNM) were not content with that. They say let's go again. We are always ready," said Mr Pindling.

Court Petition Judges

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 9 Sep 82 p 1

[Text]

ACTING CHIEF Justice Sir Denis E. G. Malone and Supreme Court judge Kenneth Henry have been appointed to hear the Election Court petitions arising out of the June 10 general elections.

The official opposition Free National Movement is protesting the outcome of two constituencies - Holy Cross and Fox Hill - won by the Progressive Liberal Party.

The PLP is protesting the outcome of five constituencies - Yamacraw, Carmichael, High Rock, Pine Ridge and Marco City - won by the FNM.

Independent candidate Norman Solomon is disputing the outcome of the St John's constituency won by the PLP.

In all the petitions, the common feature is the fact that some people voted who had been transferred after March 31, 1982 - the date on which the register closed for new persons to be registered.

The FNM from the outset said that that was illegal. The Attorney General's office argued in favour of the transfers.

The PLP's view is that if a person was already registered and moved to another

constituency, that person had the right to transfer and that was not a new registration, but a correction of the register.

The PLP is now using the same argument adduced by the FNM (that the transfers were illegal) to try to upset seats won by the FNM.

PLP leader Prime Minister Lynden Pindling told a rally Monday night that if the court rules that the transfers were wrong in Holy Cross, Fox Hill and St John's, then the transfers are also wrong in those constituencies under protest by the PLP.

PLP Complaint

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 10 Sep 82 p 1

[Article by Gladstone Thurston]

[Text]

FOX HILL MP, Frank Edgcombe, has filed a complaint with the police alleging irregularities on the part of his opponent Fred Ramsey of the Free National Movement in the June 10 general elections, Prime Minister Lynden Pindling claimed last night.

During a PLP rally Monday night, Edgcombe claimed he saw an affidavit in which Ramsey described himself as being a resident in Eastwood Subdivision in the Yamacraw constituency. Ramsey, Edgcombe said, voted in the Fox Hill constituency.

In a complaint filed with the police yesterday and read at last night's rally by Mr Pindling, Edgcombe said he is acquainted with Ramsey, who was the FNM candidate in the June 10 elections for the Fox Hill constituency.

"I know that Mr Ramsey was resident in the Eastwood Subdivision of Yamacraw from May 24, 1981," Edgcombe stated in the complaint, "and to the best of my knowledge has been living there continuously up until June 10, 1982. As far as I am aware, therefore, Mr Ramsey is still living in that area."

Edgcombe stated that he was sure Ramsey voted in the Fox Hill constituency on June 10 and that he cast his vote in polling division number one.

"I am contending that Mr Ramsey was not entitled by law to vote in that polling division and I believe that he has therefore contravened section 90(1) (a) of the Representation of the People Act and I am therefore registering an official complaint to the police for

their investigation. I am willing to prosecute if an offence is disclosed," Edgcombe stated, according to Mr Pindling.

On Monday night, at the Windsor Park rally, Edgcombe accused Ramsey of irregularities stemming from the June 10 general elections. Edgcombe and others went on to comment on the Election Court petitions that are presently before the court.

The official opposition FNM contended that the comments amounted to contempt of court. The party announced its intention to bring this alleged breach to the attention of the proper authority. The FNM also accused Mr Pindling of trying to confuse the public.

Addressing a small crowd at the Southern Recreation Grounds last night, Prime Minister Pindling chided the Opposition claim "that by informing the public of what was going on we had committed an alleged contempt of court."

"We are the only people who ever came to the public to try to explain this whole thing in ordinary language so the people could understand and they say we are trying to confuse the public," Mr Pindling said. "I am sure tonight that more people now understand what is going on than at any time before."

The common feature of all the election petitions - five by the PLP, two by the FNM and one by independent St John's candidate Norman Solomon - is the claim that some people voted in constituencies where they had been transferred after March 31 - the date on which the register closed.

The PLP's view is that if a person was already registered

and moved to another constituency, that person had the right to transfer to that constituency, and that was not a new registration, but a correction of the register.

The FNM from the outset claimed that that was illegal. The Attorney General's office argued in favour of the transfer.

The PLP is now using the FNM's argument (that the transfers were illegal) to try to upset seats won by the FNM in the June 10 elections.

"We went to court on what they (PLP administration) decided (that the transfers were legal)," an FNM official told The Tribune Wednesday. "Now they (PLP) are in court to say that if we (FNM) are right then they should benefit. The PLP is trying to have the argument both ways."

Responding to that last night, Mr Pindling said: "I don't think they (FNM) realized that the law is for everybody and not just for one set. I think they acted hastily without full and thorough preparation. That's the way it looks because I don't see how it is possible for anybody to think that a transfer in one area is not going to have anything to do with a transfer in another area."

Noting that the same judges - acting Chief Justice Denis Malone and Supreme Court judge Kenneth Henry - have been appointed to deal with all the election petitions, Mr Pindling said: "It is not possible for the Justices to come to one decision in one case and different Justices come to a different decision in a different case. The same Justices will deal with all the points in all the cases."

FNM Appeal

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 16 Sep 82 p 1

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Text] **THE COURT** of Appeals has been asked to overturn Acting Chief Justice Sir Denis Malone's order that three Grand Bahamians be allowed to present election court petitions.

The three FNM Members of Parliament for Grand Bahama, in a motion of notice filed in the Supreme Court this week, said that Sir Dennis was "wrong in law and misdirected himself in granting leave to present an election petition on an ex parte (one-sided) application ..."

MPs Cecil Wallace Whitfield (Pineridge), Maurice Moore (High Rock) and Cornelius Smith (Marco City) said in their notice that the provisions of Section 78 (1) of the Representation of the People

Act, 1969 permitting the application for leave to present an election petition to be made ex parte is ultra virus (outside the boundaries) Article 51 of the Constitution.

The notice also says that the application summons for leave should have been served on both parties at least two days before the date of the hearing, but was not.

PLP supporters Leroy Hanna, Philip McPhee and Wendell Knowles were earlier this month granted leave by Sir Dennis to petition the election court for a determination of the actual winner of the Grand Bahama constituencies in the June 10 general elections.

McPhee of Marco City, filed a petition against the FNM's CA Smith, contending that the PLP candidate Wellington

Stewart won the majority of votes for the area. Smith officially won that poll with 1,272 votes to 1,140.

Leroy Hanna, first vice-chairman of the Pineridge branch of the PLP, contends that it was Jeffrey Thompson and not Cecil Wallace Whitfield who won the Pineridge seat. Whitfield beat Thompson 1,468-1,223.

Wendell Knowles, a voter in the High Rock constituency, filed a petition claiming that the PLP candidate Russell Franks and not Maurice Moore was the duly elected MP for the area. Moore officially beat Franks 1,102-1,002.

The petitioners are claiming that the transfer of voters to the areas was "illegal" and voters cast ballots outside of their constituencies.

CSO: 3298/004

EDITOR BLASTS PLP MUZZLING OF BONA FIDE OPPOSITION

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 7 Sep 82 p 5

[Article by Etienne Dupuch]

[Excerpts]

IN ITS issue of Thursday, August 12th The Tribune published on its front page an article by Gladstone Thurston under the heading "All Eleven FNM MP's table motions at first meeting" of the new Parliament.

These notices of motions were composed of questions to the government on public matters and requests for committees to consider pressing questions, such as the serious unemployment condition and the frightening crime problem that has developed in the islands since the PLP won control of the government only 15 short years ago.

After listing the notices of motion Mr Thurston wrote: "If the attitude of the ruling Progressive Liberal Party towards the Opposition during previous sessions of Parliament is any indication, then it is unlikely Government will pay any attention to the FNM's requests."

Now let us dig deeper into this situation and discover the truth behind the government's unfair attitude.

In most cases the government refuses to allow members of the Opposition to have committees. They use their majority in the House to suppress matters that might be embarrassing to them. An important fact is that the

Speaker of the House is a member of the governing party. All committees appointed have a majority of PLP members. In many cases it is impossible to get them to attend a meeting and, when they do, it is often impossible to agree on a satisfactory report to bring back to the House.

The case of the Bannister affair, of course, is a notable exception. In this case the matter was too grave for the government to suppress it, especially on the eve of a general election.

At this time I think it is important to look back over the years and recall events that led up to the unhealthy and unjust attitudes developed by the PLP as a result of events that have embarrassed them.

You may recall that shortly after the PLP gained control of the House the Opposition, which was then the UBP, moved for the appointment of a Commission to examine certain activities of the government that were considered highly irregular. The government agreed. A Commission, composed mostly of non-Bahamians, was appointed to deal with the questions raised by the UBP.

The members of the Commission seemed to be friends of the government or in some way indirectly connected

with government. No one felt that the Commission would turn in a fair report. But they did. And the government was so shocked that this was the end of most committees appointed on matters that might be embarrassing to them.

Since then the government has boldly suppressed matters that, from their point of view, could not stand the light of public exposure, such as the PVC pipes scandal, the Abaco road construction affair, the over-expenditure on the new Post Office building on East Hill Street, and many other matters of grave importance to the public, involving the expenditure of large sums of public money.

They have clammed up on answers to questions since the occasion when Mr Maurice Moore tabled questions to Prime Minister Pindling on matters in connection with the construction of the East Hill Street Post Office. In answering these questions Mr Pindling gave false information.

It is only fair to say, however, that the answers to these questions were supplied to Mr Pindling by the Ministry involved. But - it was none-the-less - a grave reflection on the responsibility of a department of government. Since then parliamentary members of the government have gone so far as to dispute the right of Opposition members to question the activities of the government.

The government controls the public broadcasting and TV station which it uses as a propaganda machine. It sponsors a newspaper that is incapable of

telling the truth, and it seems clear now that The Guardian does not stray far from the PLP fold.

As long as the government can keep the simple truth from the masses they can go on winning elections. But in the end they will destroy themselves and the nation will go down with them.

After the June 10th election Prime Minister Pindling himself acknowledged that he had lost the confidence of the upper and middle class vote in the Bahamas. This was an acknowledgement that he had lost the support of the educated and more intelligent section of the Bahamian people.

What the government doesn't seem to understand is that the present crime wave, centered in the grass roots section of the population on which Mr Pindling has acknowledged he must now depend, is a form of protest against the administration. The day these people awaken to the truth of who is responsible for bringing the serious unemployment problem on the country that day the government will have to answer to the demands of a betrayed people. That day may be just around the next corner in the story of the PLP government.

I tell you once again that the Bahamas is now following in the footsteps of Jamaica. Happily for Jamaica it is now on the way up under new leadership. Time and events are unmasking the PLP government in the Bahamas. I dread the day when the scales fall from the eyes of the grass roots in the Bahamas.

BRIEFS

WATER TAX REVERSAL--The FNM Members of Parliament for Carmichael and Blue Hills today urged citizens to come out in vigorous protest against the new water rate increases. Frank Watson (Carmichael) and Arthur Foulkes (Blue Hills) said in a press statement that the "well tax" now being imposed by the PLP Government will be a heavy blow to their farming constituencies and other areas like Fox Hill. They urged all citizens, particularly farmers and those who are not connected to the public supply to come out in "vigorous protest" against the "unconscionable" new water rates. [Excerpts] [Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 14 Sep 82 pp 1, 8] In the wake of public outcry, the Water Corporation has been ordered to stop the controversial registration of private wells and taxing the owners \$20, Prime Minister Lynden Pindling disclosed last night. Addressing a campaign rally at the Grant's Town headquarters of PLP candidate in the October 5 by-election Bradley Roberts, Mr Pindling admitted that the registration of wells and the \$20 tax was "a nuisance." "On the authority of the Cabinet I have today (Wednesday) instructed the Water Corporation to stop the registration of wells, to stop collecting the \$20 for the registration, and to return whatever money might have already been collected," Mr Pindling said. This was done, Mr Pindling said, because the Government has decided that those parts of the regulations which deal with the registration of wells and paying for them will be repealed. "What this means is that only the increase (of over 33 per cent) in the water rates will stand, but the registration and the yearly tax on wells will go," he said. [By Gladstone Thurston] [Excerpt] [Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 16 Sep 82 pp 1, 10]

CSO: 3298/004

SEALY, PPM DENY PLANS TO CURTAIL POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

Initial Report

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 8 Sep 82 p 2

[Text]

The Peoples Pressure Movement (PPM) says it will cease political meetings unless a crisis or a serious situation demands it.

PPM leader Eric Sealy said the decision had been taken after a thorough investigation of the local political scene, which revealed there was virtually little difference between the ruling Barbados Labour Party and the opposition Democratic Labour Party.

"The identity of the two parties is so close that it is almost reasonable to conclude

that Barbados is technically a one-party state," Sealy said.

The PPM Leader said also the recent controversy surrounding the public service wages negotiations and the announcement that some unions were accepting Government's offer reveals that Barbados can actually do without unions.

This Mr. Sealy contended, was because on two occasions Government was permitted to legislate salaries, and threatens to do it a third time.

Furthermore, he argued, the DLP seems totally lacking in modern-day opposition

requirements, and without the ability to mobilise the people. This has convinced the PPM that a new political party is needed capable to fight the power structure of the BLP.

"We have therefore decided not to be involved in political meetings unless a crisis or serious situation so demands.

During this time we will nonetheless be having private meetings with individuals hoping to assist in bringing about a political movement seriously bent on fundamental changes," it added.

Sealy Clarification

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 12 Sep 82 p 2

[Text]

Political Leader of the Peoples Pressure Movement (PPM) Mr. Eric Sealy has said that his organisation has absolutely no intention of ducking out of the current political and socio-economic situation facing this country.

Mr. Sealy's comment yesterday came following recent press statements which he said gave that impression that the small but vocal PPM was quitting the local political arena.

The PPM leader said that while his party will be doing in the future would be continuing

to behave in a responsible manner while maintaining its independence. He emphasised that the PPM had absolutely no connection with either the ruling Barbados Labour Party or the Opposition Democratic Labour Party.

Mr. Sealy said that following reports in the news media last week, there had been a constant request from the public for the PPM to continue its work for the benefit of the people and country in general.

In an effort to make its position clear the PPM will be

holding at least three public meetings throughout the country starting next Sunday in the Fairchild Street Market Square.

Mr. Sealy along with other party front line speakers will give some nine reasons which will show "the weakness in the political union of the political parties," he said.

The PPM leader said that he was very pleased with the response and recognition given the movement both locally and internationally over the years.

FIGURES SHOW CONTINUING DECLINE IN 1982 TOURISM

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 8 Sep 82 p 1

[Text]

Barbados recorded its seventh consecutive decline in tourist arrivals in July, which was down some 20.9 per cent on the same month in 1981, according to government statistics.

The overall decrease for the period January to July was 12.4 per cent, compared with the corresponding seven month period in 1981, according to a CANA report.

The figure reflected a continuing decline in the vital revenue earning industry, attributed mainly to the economic recession in North America and Europe.

The 1982 declines were January 10.5 per cent, February 4.3 per cent, March 8.9 per cent, April 4.5 per cent, May 14.8 and June 26.7 per cent.

According to the Government's Statistical Service Barbados smallest market, Venezuela recorded the only increase in arrivals for July. From Venezuela 529 visitors came compared to 492 for the same period.

All other markets declined with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), West Germany and Europe showing the largest decreases.

Arrivals from the United States were down 13.3 per cent with 7 301 visitors this year compared to 8 417 in 1981 and the United Kingdom down 28.6 per cent with arrivals at 4 754 compared to 6 622 last year.

Canada, one of Barbados main tourist markets, recorded a 7.6 per cent decline in arrivals with 2 569 visitors coming to Barbados in July compared to 2 781 last year.

Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados main CARICOM market declined by 8.1 per cent with 6 387 visitors compared to 6 950 last year July. The other Caribbean Community (CARICOM) markets fell off by 34.8 per cent, with arrivals at 3 603 compared to 5 529 last year.

Arrivals from West Germany showed the biggest single decline, 39.5 per cent. Some 604 German visitors come to Barbados in July compared to 982 last year. Europe's decline for July was 37.8 per cent, with 2 289 visitors compared to 3 681 last year.

Total arrivals for July stood at 28 036 compared to 35 456 last year.

According to the official statistics 30 999 visitors came to Barbados in January 1982 compared to 34 640 last year. The corresponding figures for the other six months were February 33 033 compared to 34 527 last year March 27 844 compared to 30 551, April 29 747 compared to 31 161, May 20 949 compared to 24 586 and June 16 713 compared to 22 791.

Last year Barbados tourist arrivals fell by five per cent.

LABOR LEADER WALCOTT REJECTS U.S. 'NEGOTIATION' METHODS

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 8 Sep 82 p 5

[Text]

BRIDGETOWN, Tues.,
(Cana)

BARBADOS' foremost labour leader, Frank Walcott, has told an employers' meeting here that negotiated wage cuts, as a means of helping the country out of its economic difficulties, would be unacceptable.

Walcott, general manager of the 30,000 strong Barbados Workers' Union (BWU) and former President of the Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL), was addressing the associate members of the Barbados Hotel Association (BHA), at the Hilton Hotel yesterday.

Said he: "The innovation of the negotiated method that has been adopted in the USA, where incomes and other supplementary benefits are entirely different from those in Barbados, it is feasible for the American trade unions to find a convenient arrangement, in a moment of stress, to negotiate wage contracts where the unions agree to the reduction in wages.

"That concept is unthinkable in an economy like Barbados", and, moreso, in the hotel industry that is predominantly a seasonal industry," the veteran unionist declared.

"I hope I do not hear from any Barbadian employer — the comparison between the U.S. and the Barbadian worker, because we have never called upon the Barbadian employer to match the American employer as an employer, in industrial relations," he added.

Before the 1974 relations problems here, the workers in the hotel sector could not be considered privileged wage earners, "and even now, it would not be true to intimate that the basic wage rate paid to the average hotel worker is high," the BWU chief said.

"When faced by cuts in the number of hours worked, the wage of the worker is even more depressed. Hotel workers' wages are certainly not the type to which give-back arrangements should be applied," Mr. Walcott added.

His comments came against the backdrop of a fall-off in tourist arrivals here for the last three years, with some hotels closing or cutting back staff.

Last year saw a five per cent decline in visitors here, and the decrease for the first seven months of this year totalled 12.4 per cent.

WORLD BANK LOAN IS FOR AGRICULTURE, ENERGY CONSERVATION

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 10 Sep 82 p 1

[Text]

Barbados has received a US\$2.7 million technical assistance loan from the World Bank to be used on a US\$3.7 million project in agricultural diversification and energy conservation.

Government will contribute the remainder of the funds.

The Barbados Ambassador to the United States, Mr. Charles Skeete, signed the loan in Washington, D.C. late last month.

The project will strengthen institutional capabilities and train local counterpart staff to work with farmers and energy users.

For the agricultural sector, the project will provide consultant services to advise the government on the development of non-sugar agriculture by improving policies, extension work, irrigation and marketing.

During the course of project implementation, training will be provided and short-term pilot projects may be carried out.

Recognising the importance of energy management, the Government will use about 40

man-months of consultant services for promoting energy conservation. A permanent energy conservation organisation will be set up and a national conservation programme will be implemented.

The programme will include developing local expertise, advising and motivating consumers, improving the transport system, and providing credit facilities for energy conservation. Specialised short-term training will upgrade qualifications of energy managers, engineers, and other government staff. The project will also provide equipment and library materials.

Overall responsibility for the project will be assumed by the Ministry of Finance and Planning.

This loan for technical assistance provides support for programmes not covered by other aid agencies.

The loan is for 15 years including a grace period of three years, at 11.6 per cent interest per annum.

FURTHER DETAILS ON CONDITIONS OF NUPW OK OF WAGE OFFER

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 8 Sep 82 p 20

[Text]

THE rift between the Barbados Government and Civil Service unions over a salaries settlement, is still as wide as it has ever been; and there could be possible industrial action if Government does not respond to counter-proposals by the middle of the month.

This was said yesterday by general secretary of the National Union of Public Workers (NUPW), Joseph Goddard, in response to recent media statements that his union was one of three, accepting Government's final offer of \$25 across the board.

Goddard pointed out that the NUPW, the Barbados Union of Teachers (BUT), and the Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners (BAMP), had signed a compromise document stating that they would accept the \$25 across the board only under certain conditions.

"The conditions are that for this \$25 to be accepted for 1982, Government will have to assure the unions that it will pay civil servants an increase in salaries for 1983-84 of nine percent at the top of

the scale and 14 percent at the bottom," Goddard stressed.

Government only has until September 18 to respond to this document, having been given until 15 days following receipt of the document to make some form of positive response. Government is said to have received the letter last Friday.

Goddard also moved to clear up "another misconception" which according to him, was given to the public by the news media.

He said it was wrong for persons to feel that because only the NUPW, the BUT and BAMP had signed the document that the other Civil Service associations were not behind them.

He said the other unions, which had met with them during their joint sessions, the Police Association, Fire Service Association, and Prison Officers Association, had through their presence signalled that they were in fact supportive of the position taken.

The position of the other union involved, the Barbados Secondary Teachers Union (BSTU), will be known after its executive meets with the general body, when it will be decided if that body will submit similar proposals to the Chief Establishments Officer.

NUPW general secretary, Goddard, has disputed the Prime Minister's claim that the final offer of \$25 across the board for civil servants, would cost the Government some \$25 million this year.

Goddard said the increase would cost the Government no more than \$18 million; and added that some 42 percent of this would be returned to the Treasury in the form of levies and other deductions.

CSO: 3298/005

FIRST LABOR DAY MARKED; UBP RAPPED FOR RACISM

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 7 Sep 82 pp 1, 6

[Excerpts]

Celebrations at Bernard Park and the Hamilton "Roots March" predictably stole the thunder for the Island's first Labour Day holiday.

Some 2,000 marchers were joined by probably that number again for the day-long festivities which were described as an "overwhelming" success by Bermuda Industrial Union President Mr. Ottiwell Simmons M.P.

But the political bickering which preceded the event was in evidence again during the day itself. Some Labour Day organisers, clearly upset by the "snub" accusations levelled at them by the Premier, reacted by alleging that the United Bermuda Party had deliberately tried to split workers along racial lines.

"I would have hoped that we would have had every worker in this Country participating in that march," Progressive Labour Party M.P. Mr. Eugene Blakeney told the rally last night.

"But looking around me one would think that the only workers in this Country are black." The United Bermuda Party should be "taken to task" for its divisive "antics", said Mr. Blakeney, General Secretary of the B.P.S.A.

His view was echoed later by Mr. Simmons. "Our ef-

forts to make Labour Day for the whole community have been slightly marred by Government's deliberate diversion of people to other activities.

"I think this was one opportunity, being the first Labour Day, to keep politics out of this holiday and to bring people from different ideological stances, and workers and employers together."

Mr. Simmons added: "I don't accept that we made it political. If the U.B.P. had put in a formal request, I think the joint committee would have accepted it. The committee was disappointed at their antics and devious behaviour."

Political overtones, of course, featured throughout the Bernard Park festivities and crept into a good many of the speeches.

And Mr. Blakeney's observation over the lack of white participation was borne out. Portuguese workers, who number significantly in the B.I.U. membership, were conspicuous by their absence.

Mr. Young's speech was followed by an address by Opposition Leader Mrs. Lois Browne Evans who urged the crowd to "rejuvenate your spirit and faith in the movement for change".

She repeated a P.L.P. assurance to change the Labour Day date to the first

Monday in May if elected to power.

The programme was delayed about an hour because of the late arrival of the marchers in the park. It was nearly 2 p.m. before Atlanta Mayor Mr. Andrew Young took the platform — just 15 minutes before he was due to catch a flight back to Atlanta.

Mr. Charles Hayes, vice-president of the Union of Food and Commercial Workers in the United States, was the next speaker, and he told the rally of growing fears over unemployment in America and the growing need for solidarity among workers worldwide.

Apart from Mr. Young, the most generous reception was reserved for Portuguese Secretary for Labour Dr. Joaquim Maria Fernandes Marques, who spoke first in English and then in his native tongue.

The Labour Day, he said, "does indeed dignify both its promoters and those to whom it is addressed, the working man".

Dr. Marques told of the agreement reached by the governments of Portugal and Bermuda on principles concerning "recruitment, residence and social promotion of Portuguese workers in Bermuda".

CONTROVERSIAL SWAN ADVISER WITHDRAWS BID FOR STATUS

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 4 Sep 82 pp 1, 3

[Text]

The decision of political aide Mr. Raj Nadarajah to withdraw his Bermuda status application has "let the Premier off the hook", Progressive Labour Party spokesman Senator David Allen said yesterday.

"If he had not withdrawn, the ball would have been in the Premier's court to dispel suspicion that favour had been shown to this gentleman who continues to be close to the Premier, on my understanding," Senator Allen said.

"I'm sure people would have been watching very closely to see if his name was on the list of people granted status."

Senator Allen was responding to remarks made by Mr. Nadarajah, aide and confidante to the Premier, in a story in yesterday's Mid-Ocean News.

Mr. Nadarajah was quoted as saying he withdrew his application because he wanted to be granted status on his own merits and he wanted to put an end to speculation about political manoeuvring.

The Sri Lankan national also launched an attack on the P.L.P.'s stand on the issue, accusing them of mounting a Joe McCarthy-style campaign to get the "blood" of himself and the Premier the Hon. John Swan.

Said Senator Allen: "We would not dignify the Joe McCarthy remark with a reply. It is beneath the dignity of the official Opposition to comment on such remarks."

The Senator went on to say that while the heat may now have been taken out of the Nadarajah Affair "Mr. Swan is not off the hook over the granting of status to others in an indiscriminatory way".

He said: "I think the Nadarajah Affair has brought into focus the whole question of granting status. We know there have been abuses in the past."

"We are on record as opposing it in the first place but if it is going to be given, it should be given out fairly."

'NEW LIBERALISM' TO PROPOSE NATIONALIZATION OF BANKS

Announcement by Lara Bonilla

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 8 Sep 82 pp 1-A, 10-B

[Article by Leonel Fierro T.]

[Excerpt] A formal proposal to nationalize the banking and private savings sector and to prevent a repetition of scandalous incidents of illicit enrichment will be presented to the government next week by New Liberalism, according to an announcement made last night by Sen Rodrigo Lara Bonilla.

In his explanation to the Upper Chamber plenary of the objective expounded by the minister of finance, Edgar Gutierrez Castro, Lara Bonilla said that this suggestion will be made to President Belisario Betancur, as the behavior of several financial organizations during the past few weeks justifies a measure of this kind.

"We do not intend to allow debate to die," he noted and emphasized the great importance of debate from the national interest standpoint with a view to determining the way in which the government will confront the problem.

The radical nature of Lara Bonilla's announcement prompted Sen Alvaro Leyva Duran, coauthor of the proposal attributed to Minister Gutierrez Castro, to say that it was not his intention to go quite that far. He said that as a conservative he is not in favor of state intervention in the banking system.

Lopez Michelsen Advises Reform

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 9 Sep 82 pp 1-A, 8-A

[Article by Julian Escovar]

[Text] Yesterday, former president of the country, Alfonso Lopez Michelsen, proposed a profound reform of the national financial system which would provide real protection for its users and would consolidate its structure, organization and operation.

He said that the measure is of an urgent nature, as the real situation of the financial sector has indicated that the provisions of prevailing statutes covering the sector are outdated.

Lopez formalized his proposal in the form of a detailed bill entitled "A Law to Regulate Financial Activity and Its Exercise by Economic Groups," which was delivered to the junta of parliamentary groups.

However, the former president said that his initiative does not presume to establish total regulation of the financial sector, as an undertaking of that kind would involve "a detailed, orderly study going back to 1923 and would require an extended period of time."

However, he did stress the fact that the state now lacks updated and adequate legal instruments to confront the new phenomena which are affecting the financial structure and which should be placed under control.

"In fact," Lopez emphasized during his recital of the reasons for the bill, "the presence of financial entities which constitute economic groups, actions in the financial market of persons or enterprises not subject to state control and surveillance, the use of financial agents as instruments of investment and concentration of capital, above and beyond their duties as simple middlemen between savings accumulation and funds utilization, as well as the multiple ways in which they fail to carry out the objectives set by the Monetary Board, are some cases that point up the need for complementing and reforming financial legislation."

He emphasized, "Confronted by a situation like the one described, it seems that action is needed on the part of the state which, from the standpoint of economic orthodoxy, can orient itself in several directions, ranging from the exclusive defense of the rights of private property and free enterprise to the establishment of and surveillance over rules of the game for private activity which inspired the initiatives of the Kemmerer Mission."

According to Lopez, "At this point in time, liberalism feels it necessary to accentuate the social content and the planning intention which should characterize state intervention through constitutional mandate."

Four Objectives

In order for the state to remain in a position of firmness in the face of bankruptcies which are overwhelming the financial structure, Lopez explained that his bill has the purpose of attaining the following four objectives:

1. To implement a concept of financial activity which will include all phases of the middleman cycle, with special emphasis on the taking in of funds from the public to give real and effective guarantees of protection to the saver.
2. To reaffirm the essential public service character to the state of financial activity, through replacement of the operating permits now being granted to private parties by real public service concessions whose minimal conditions of utilization are set forth in the text of the initiative.
3. To regulate financial activity to prevent the negative effects the action of economic and financial groups now has upon Colombian society.

4. To provide state organizations with adequate systems and procedures to carry out the functions of inspection and surveillance and with instruments which will enable them to exercise efficient preventive control.

Next, the liberal leader explained the scope of these objectives in the following terms:

"The objectives establish the general concept of financial activity from the standpoint of material content rather than the nature of the entities which engage in such activity. Thus, there is a change in the prevailing criterion which defines financial activity as a function of the subject rather than as the object of it. Also, the bill introduces the term 'funds from the public,' which obviates discussions about the scope of the term 'private savings'.

"By raising the operating permit to the level of a concession we strengthen the capacity for state control and surveillance over financial establishments. In particular, the requirements for the granting of a financial concession are conducive to an increase in the guarantees which should be offered to the community by the financial sector.

"Financial activity as a public service concession permits application of the concept of administrative termination and the development of reasons which can prompt it."

Express Prohibitions

"Three fundamental concepts of administrative termination are introduced to protect the funds of the public, to prevent their diversion and to ensure the seriousness of the concessionaires and the clarity of information about them.

"To counteract customary practices which have given rise to the utilization of savers' money to purchase enterprises and, consequently, to form economic groups which lead to the concentration of power and capital prejudicial to the small investor, such practices are prohibited and administrative termination is used to penalize infractions.

"In order to facilitate the determination of the many ways in which these prohibited activities are carried out, a series of presumptions is provided with a view to inverting the burden of proof of their circumvention.

"Included in the bill are the economic groups which sprang up in the financial market presumably because of the specialized manner in which the law treated the financial entities. In fact, to cover all the middleman activities and services, these entities are using the group instrument, a phenomenon which generates serious consequences of economic concentration and precarious guarantees of protection for depositors.

"Bank reserve figures are ratified; however, publication of information related to the management of financial establishments is called for to assure

savers in particular and the public in general that such information is correct. This requirement is accompanied by the obligation to publish the Bank Superintendancy's regulations on reports by financial entities.

"In the event of state intervention into financial establishments, the state will guarantee the return of funds taken in from the public up to 1 million pesos per natural or legal person having made deposits in the respective entity.

"All financial establishments will have access to the emergency credit fund of the Bank of the Republic, when there are deposit withdrawals which seriously endanger their liquidity."

Opposition to Nationalization

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 9 Sep 82 pp 1-A, 8-A

[Article by Carlos Pineaos]

[Text] The government will convene a multisectoral meeting to hammer out an agreement on profound reforms of the banking and financial system to strengthen its traditional prestige and solidity, according to information released yesterday by a prominent industrial leader, Carlos Ardila Lulle.

At the same time, he said he was categorically opposed to the nationalization of the banking system, a view shared by the president of the Bank of Colombia, Jaime Michelsen Uribe. In lieu thereof both men proposed an agreement on changes which respond to the country's needs and aspirations.

Ardila Lulle and Michelsen Uribe said that isolated problems in the financial system have in no way damaged the strength, seriousness and prestige enjoyed by the Colombian banking system in the world financial market.

For his part, Jorge Mejia Salazar, president of the Bank of Bogota, who is in Toronto, Canada, said over the National Radio Network (RCN), that he is not in favor of nationalization of the banking system. He praised its operations in the private sector and expressed the view that the nationalization of the banking system in Mexico was a mistake.

Ardila Lulle spoke for the first time about friction between the ministries of development and finance in the last government on the subject of self-financing enterprises established by their economic group, friction with which he said he was not familiar; however, he noted that the government had acted in accordance with the legal canons.

At the same time, they indicated their support for discontinuation of 486 luxury products imported or produced in the country because they considered it a sound policy to promote productive national investments and employment and to fortify the Colombian economy.

All the economic trade unions, with the exception of the National Federation of Merchants (FENALCO), supported removal of the 486 products from the

tariff list of imports allowable on the basis of prior licenses. FENALCO made partial objections.

Ardila Lulle

The brains of the Ardila Lulle Group said, "I will never agree to the nationalization of the Colombian banking system because it is handled and administered better in the private sector." He thereby manifested his opposition to the initiative of Sen Rodrigo Lara Bonilla, which was made in the name of New Liberalism.

Ardila Lulle made reference to the case of Mexico, whose banking system was nationalized by Jose Lopez Portillo's government to combat the asphyxiation of speculation and to move back into the practice of productive investments.

"In Mexico's case, a scapegoat was needed for the Mexican economy disaster which was principally attributable to an incredible deficit in the federal budget, where revenues did not cover half the expenditures. Naturally, it had to come to a position of this kind," he said.

On the subject of the financial crisis of several financial entities, he noted, "These cases have already been localized; they are isolated cases that do not affect the reputation for respectability and good management the Colombian banking system enjoys inside and outside the country, which sustain its immense prestige abroad.

"I agree with the approach proposed by Dr Michelsen Uribe to consider the advantages and problems of the financial system. Anything that can improve it is magnificent. We (the Ardila Lulle group) cannot say that we are in the financial system, which is very important to national life, because we are preeminently an industrial organization."

"Are you in favor of a legal system for financial groups?

"The government has established increasingly more regulations," Ardila Lulle responded, "in accordance with the times. What is more, the president has said he is going to convene a commission to restudy the financial system and to make the needed changes in our 1923 law, which established the Colombian banking system. We need new methods for new times."

The Self-financing enterprises

The industrial leader was questioned about the letter which during the previous government then Finance Minister Eduardo Wiesner Durán had sent to his colleague, Gabriel Melo Guevara, in the Ministry of Development, with observations on the authorizations given to The Self-Financing Enterprises, POSTOLUX and COLTE-financiera [?Colombia Textile and Finance Company].

"Our work is preeminently industrial. There are financial entities to accumulate funds and working capital for enterprises, without any go-between financial organization; there are no loans to third parties, and it is the product of experience.

"The support given by the financial entities and all the industrial enterprises is solidary. What is more, that is what the country wants," he said in reference to the great security savers are seeking for their deposits.

"There is nothing more controlled," he added, "That has greater security than this class of companies (the self-financing companies). They operate under infinite restrictions and guarantees, including not only the responsibility of the financial entity but also of all the partners who have jointly signed the promissory notes which in legal financial history provide the maximum security the country has ever known."

When asked for his opinion of the so-called surveillance of the self-financing companies by the Ministry of Finance, which was used to justify the intervention of Wiesner Duran vis-a-vis Melo Guevara, Ardila Lullo answered:

"Surveillance over the enterprises should have been exercised by the Ministry of Development because those companies are not financial go-betweens; they do not make loans to third parties. Also, those who should have signed were the president of the republic and his minister of development.

"They are enterprises that are controlled and surveilled by the Superintendency of Companies which is subordinate to the Ministry of Development. I am familiar with the decree but not the observations which were said to have been made by the minister of finance to the minister of development."

Michelsen Uribe

On the subject of the proposal to nationalize the Colombian banking system, Michelsen Uribe, president of the Bank of Colombia, said, "The banking system is in a position which merits all kinds of study; however, I do not feel that this is the answer. It is a position which merits consideration and respect for its authors."

With respect to the subsidization of the banking system, he said, "I hope we have a forum on the financial sector, as we have just done with the railroads, to analyze the causes and effects, advantages and solutions the financial sector has, because it has many advantages, virtues and a record of service to the country. Of course, it has its defects, as does any human undertaking."

"The country's banking system has a splendid record," Michelsen Uribe noted.

Mejia Salazar

Jorge Mejia Salazar, president of the Bank of Bogota, said that he does not agree with the formulas for nationalization of the banking system and the fears nationalization of the banking system and the fears expressed by Lara Bonilla and former minister Joaquin Vallejo Arbelaez.

When asked whether the problems of the Colombian banking system could degenerate into nationalization, Mejia Salazar, who is in Toronto, Canada

where he is taking part in the conference being held by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, said over the RCN:

"I do not believe that the Colombian banking system is in that problem situation. The fact is that two or three small banks have created a problem of a magnitude which does not indicate that the whole banking system has problems.

"I disagree completely with Dr Joaquin Vallejo. There is no danger of nationalization of the banking system. What is more, it would be a tremendous mistake if we were to opt for that route."

8143

CSO: 3010/2328

EXPRESSION OF FIDELITY FROM DEFENSE MINISTER

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 8 Sep 82 p 8-B

[Text] Gen Luis Fernando Landazabal Reyes, minister of defense, has re-affirmed that there is no Colombian soldier who harbors the slightest feeling against the democratic institutions and announced that he will request a wage adjustment for police officers.

Landazabal Reyes, speaking last night before the House of Representatives plenary, said, "The country can be fully certain that the loyalty of the Colombian Armed Forces is steadfast and not negotiable." He added, "We are ready at this time to break with the past because we have to accept the redemption of Colombia."

During a lengthy debate, in which his government colleague, Rodrigo Escobar Navia, also took part, the number one general called for raising the morale of the police force which he said cannot continue to be impugned everywhere.

The debate was led by liberal Galanist parliamentarians Jonh [as published] Gomez Restrepo and Emilio Aljure Nasser, who proposed the restructuring of the police force among other things and first and foremost its return to civil status.

A report by the police force's general staff to Minister Landazabal Reyes points up a series of defects in the institution which it proposes to remedy immediately, particularly matters relating to new police officers. For example, the report notes that the efficiency of the service has been deficient and that adequate academic training is not required.

The report also mentions professional disincentives and the immaturity of the new officers. As an immediate measure, the report announces suspension of the recruitment of young men to perform military service in the police force.

At the same time, an order was issued suspending the services contracted for by the police force to cover vacation periods of police officers.


According to the minister, work is also being done on a complete plan for the modernization of that institution and the assignment to it of trained officers so that it can carry out its mission efficiently.

FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL SCORES SYMMS AMENDMENT

Havana GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW in English 5 Sep 82 p 1

[Editorial: "The Symms Amendment: A Dangerous Blunder and a New Provocation"]

[Text]



NO SANE, honest person would deny that today, more than ever before, international political decisions must be based on common sense and realism. In present times, characterized by the explosive situations prevailing in the hot spots created by reactionaries in various parts of the planet, plus an unchecked arms race fanned by imperialism — which aggravates the deep capitalist economic crisis that is criminally passed on to the underdeveloped world — the blunders and mistakes of the people who are involved in or make government policy can often be very dangerous, since humanity may pay dearly for them.

The United States of America is badly in need of a large dose of common sense and realism in order to counteract the blunders of some of its politicians.

A case in point is the recent resolution of the U.S. Senate, controlled by a majority of the ruling party, empowering the Yankee administration to resort to all means available to the United States, including the use of troops, to oppose an alleged Cuban threat in the hemisphere.

Adopted by a vote of 69 to 27, the resolution was the result of a motion made by Republican Senator Steven D. Symms from Idaho and was tacked on as an amendment to a bill dealing with general budgetary affairs. In a way, the procedure brings to mind the mechanism used when Congress approved the notorious Platt Amendment early this century.

International news agencies reported that during the congressional debate Charles H. Percy, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, criticized the resolution and said that it was tantamount to "a Gulf of Tonkin resolution" against Cuba.

Percy was referring to a resolution adopted by the Senate halfway during the '60s which enabled then President Lyndon B. Johnson

to step up the aggression against the people of Vietnam.

Senator Percy added that this resolution would enable the Reagan administration to send U.S. troops to Cuba without specific congressional authorization, as required under the 1973 War Powers Act.

Perhaps frightened by the possibly ominous consequences of his provocative and threatening brainchild, Senator Symms said shortly afterwards that he wasn't advocating the use of force in the Caribbean but rather a reinforcement of "our first line of defense."

The Senate then lost no time in amending the Symms resolution so that it wouldn't supersede the 1973 War Powers Act, which requires the president to get congressional approval before using U.S. troops for a period of more than 60 days.

Ever since it was approved the Symms Amendment has been condemned by representatives of Latin American governments, particularly those of Mexico, Nicaragua and Venezuela; by political figures of highly diverse tendencies; and by large segments of public opinion in Our America and the rest of the world. It couldn't be otherwise.

The Symms Amendment, which is based on the reactionary Monroe Doctrine of 1823 and which, ironically, was approved only three months after decisive U.S. support to British colonialism in the Malvinas war, stands for increased aggressiveness on the part of a government which has behaved in an insanely intolerant and arrogant manner and is always reluctant to find political solutions. That resolution dangerously encourages the tendency of the current U.S. administration to resort to the use of force and paves the way for intervention in Central America and the Caribbean.

Only the atmosphere of aggressive rhetoric prevailing in the White House today can explain such a reactionary decision. This resolution seeks to reimpose the big stick policy

on the Latin American peoples and clearly demonstrates the contempt with which the representatives of the empire hold the sovereignty of the countries south of the Rio Grande.

Feverish minds in Washington are unbelievably shortsighted to think that nothing has changed since the times of the Platt Amendment. They continue to view our nations like mere colonies of the United States. They are bent on resorting to lies and falsehoods as propaganda weapons to hide the facts known to all: that the true sources of all the liberation struggles being waged in Central America are not to be found in Havana but rather in the subhuman political and socioeconomic conditions prevailing in the region — unemployment, poverty, inequality, injustice, latifundia and the merciless exploitation by the transnationals — and that the peoples' revolutionary struggle is their response to the bloody repression unleashed by the regimes supported by the United States.

The Symms Amendment makes it clear that certain politicians in the United States have yet to understand that U.S. imperialism has no right to act as world gendarme and even less right to offend the dignity of our peoples. How long will Washington continue trying to trample on Latin American sovereignty and independence? It would indeed be a good thing for peace in this part of the world if certain politicians in the North understood and accepted once and for all that the times when Yankee boots could tread on our soil at the whim of "the honorable U.S. president" are long gone in time and are part of the prehistory of the Americas and only serve as a shameful reminder of the criminal action of a powerful country where selfish and petty monopoly interests are increasingly crushing the democratic aspirations of the noble people of the United States.

It is simply disgraceful that the United States should shamelessly "legalize" a possible intervention on Latin American soil, particularly in Central America and the Caribbean, where the Reagan administration has shown that it favors armed aggression in spite of the fact that large sectors of people in the United States oppose such a decision.

Significantly, the Symms Amendment comes at a time of intense U.S. preparations to turn Honduras into a base of operations from which to attack the region. It has been publicly announced that Honduras will get "military aid" from the United States to the tune of 65 million dollars and that, thanks to Yankee financial and technical aid, it has sped up the construction of two naval bases quite close to the Nicaraguan border, plus three military air strips. Just recently the U.S. navy commander in the Atlantic, Admiral Harry Train, arrived in Tegucigalpa with the avowed purpose of giving advice and making military recommendations. At the same time, the U.S. and Honduran air forces staged joint maneuvers and it was officially confirmed that other maneuvers would follow "in the future." Located in Honduras are the bases set up by groups of Somocista

counterrevolutionaries who are committing crimes on Nicaraguan soil, and it is a known fact that certain Honduran army officers, following the instructions of the CIA and the Pentagon and with White House approval, are actively helping the Salvadoran army in fighting and repressing the Salvadoran patriotic forces.

Managua has repeatedly charged that the United States is pursuing a policy of isolating and militarily harassing Nicaragua through armed counterrevolutionary bands, the Honduran army and the U.S.-Honduran joint maneuvers. An editorial of the daily *Barricada*, organ of the Sandinista National Liberation Front, charged that the Symms Amendment was only the first step to clear the way for the forces of aggression.

Concerning El Salvador, the steps taken by the U.S. government run completely counter to finding a political solution in which all the interested parties are included. The support given by imperialism to the genocidal Salvadoran regime is constantly growing in scope and its principal leaders have failed to hide their grotesque preference for the use of force, which unfortunately has caused so much bloodshed and so much pain to the long-suffering Salvadoran people. But history has shown that this can only succeed in further strengthening the will to resist, the fighting spirit and the patriotism of that heroic people. One does not need to be a skilled analyst of international affairs to realize that the Symms Amendment reinforces the position of anyone in the Reagan administration who favors direct U.S. intervention in El Salvador under the pretext of "the danger of Cuban subversion."

But anyone in Washington who is toying with the idea of a U.S. military intervention in Central America and who wants to take advantage of this incredible manifestation of stupidity displayed by certain U.S. senators should be reminded of the lesson taught to the U.S. troops in Vietnam and the crushing defeat dealt imperialism there. We are confident that the people of the United States and their other, more dignified, representatives will not easily forget the many families who lost relatives in that unjust war, which some people are now trying to repeat on Central American soil.

In terms of our own country, which belongs to the great Latin American and Caribbean family, in spite of Washington's efforts to isolate us from it, let there be no doubt that the Symms Amendment represents another ingredient in the Yankee aggressive

escalation — born of a policy in which imperial stubbornness and arrogance have prevailed over realism. This phenomenon is nothing new for Cuba, nor does it come as a surprise. Throughout these 24 years of Revolution we've learned to live under the constant danger posed by aggression and threats. We do not want a climate of tension, but it does not alarm us. Let the instigators of conflicts and the blind politicians in the United States of America beware, lest they fall prey to their own deception!

The Symms Amendment paves the way through threats and provocations for the possibility of a Yankee aggression against Cuba, but we must give warning and reaffirm here that for quite a long time now our country has been preparing to meet such a contingency, to defend the homeland against any imperialist blow.

We have said it a thousand times before and we repeat it now: no blackmail, threat or pressure of any kind will ever find fertile soil in Cuba.

U.S. State Department broadcasts found it odd that Cuba had not responded quickly to the Symms Amendment and ventured to say that the reason for this was perhaps to be found in the fact that the country was then hosting the 14th Central American and Caribbean Games.

The only thing that merits a comment on this is the abysmal gap between the events taking place these days in Washington and those in Havana. In the country that had refused to give Puerto Rico the paltry funds necessary to host the Games, a portion of the Senate formulated a message of intervention and war in the region; while here, in our capital, hundreds of athletes from over 20 Central American and Caribbean countries were writing a fraternal message of peace through their participation in sports. What a difference!

But it was not a question of postponing any of our other duties on account of the Games. We did not have to neglect any task in any sphere in order to stage the Games here modestly and efficiently. Our people know this quite well. The simple and straightforward explanation is that it's been quite a long time since we lost any sleep over the hysterical tantrums and violent rhetoric of the imperialists. Putting it more clearly, nothing can intimidate us. That's why we respond how and when it best suits us. And we might add this: it isn't even necessary that we respond at all. With or without the Symms Amendment, with or without congressional declarations, there's only one simple, categorical Cuban stand, which was established a long time ago.

Fidel said on July 26, and we reiterate now with the same compelling force and decision: "The imperialists will never make us shirk our duties. They never succeeded in the past and they never will succeed in the future."

On that occasion our commander in chief expressed something that we ratify now with the same sincerity and willingness:

"We believe that there must be firmness, and the history of Cuba demonstrates that firmness is the overriding principle in the face of imperialist threats. However, aggression, the imperialist adventures, seem to be in vogue everywhere. So we'll see what happens. Therefore, we must not only live up to the principle of making our greatest efforts at home, such as more saving and efficiency, but we must also fulfill our international duties. We're not in favor of wars. We're in favor of peace, in favor of solutions. We're well aware of what the consequences of a war would mean to the world, and the danger of war really does exist. We're in favor of solutions, and we have repeatedly said this in relation to the various trouble spots.... Therefore, our attitude is not that of promoting conflict. However, no imperialist threat or aggression will make us step back as much as half an inch. Not even half an inch!"

In the context of the long history of the past 24 years, the Symms Amendment is a new step on the senseless, blind and dishonorable path followed by the United States in regard to Cuba.

Does it increase the danger of some new aggressive adventure against our country? That may be so. Does it change our stand in any way? Absolutely not. The crude and threatening language of the imperialists might impress those who lack a homeland, dignity and courage to defend a cause. It will never impress a people who, ever since they began their rise to freedom and justice, have always been willing to fight and die to defend their revolutionary principles. Perhaps by the time Mr. Symms began his politicking in Idaho — and maybe earlier — we Cubans had already learned to stand by our cry of "Patria o muerte! Venceremos!"

POOR ECONOMIC STATE OF UNDERDEVELOPED NATIONS NOTED

Havana GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW in English 19 Sep 82 p 7

[Article by Osvaldo Martinez, director of the Center for Research on the World Economy (CIEM)]

[Text]



THE PROPORTIONS and characteristics of the serious economic crisis originating in the developed capitalist countries — whose effects extend to every aspect of world economy — were the determining factors in the evolution of the economy of the underdeveloped countries in 1981.

Of course, the underdeveloped countries — given their status and the consequent dependency and vulnerability — were the hardest hit by the crisis, which comes as no surprise, considering the nature of neocolonial relations. This has been the case during every slump of the capitalist system, including the downward turn that began in 1974 and from which the system has yet to recover.

However, in describing the situation of the underdeveloped countries in 1980, 1981, the first half of 1982 and presumably 1983 and even later, we must go beyond the obvious generalizations, since the current crisis is so acute that it is no exaggeration to call it an economic catastrophe.

Generally speaking, in 1981 the underdeveloped countries were battered by the drop in the price of their exports, and the brutal effects of onerous interest rates that significantly raised the level of their debt servicing made it practically impossible for them to obtain new loans and reduced their possibilities for investments in the production sector.

Last year, the prominent features of the economic process in the Third World were the worsening of the terms of trade, the drop in exports, the increase in the interest rates for old and new debts and the extremely limited access to new loans from abroad.

In 1974-75, the effects of the crisis were not as severe as they are now, particularly in regard to the terms of trade and, even more so, in the finance sector. Whereas during that period it was possible to maintain a flow of commercial loans and a certain level of concessionary financing that helped to maintain import

levels, the present state of affairs is characterized by a marked drop in imports and a minimum or negative growth rate as the only way to cope with the asphyxiating situation abroad.

The developing countries' economic growth rate for 1981 attests to the proportions of the disaster. The growth rate of the Gross National Product dropped from 3 percent in 1980 to 0.6 percent in 1981. Compare this figure to the 5.6 percent yearly average obtained in the '70s and, even more, with the goal of 7 percent set as the minimum level by the 3rd UN Development Decade within the framework of the International Development Strategy.

Last year there was a drop of over one percent in per capita production — something that had not happened since the late '30s. It was also the fourth consecutive year that the GNP growth rate showed a definite drop.

There was a two-thirds drop in the growth of the GNP of the energy-importing countries to an extremely low 1.4 percent, the lowest figure in the last 25 years. Moreover, a drop in the terms of trade of between 4 and 5 percent, plus the overwhelming servicing of debts — in great measure the result of the high interest rates imposed by the Reagan administration — brought about a tremendous drop in per capita income in the underdeveloped countries. There was an absolute decline in per capita income for this group of countries, which are inhabited by 1800 million people (over 75 percent of the Third World's population), and several of these countries registered a per capita income drop for the second consecutive year.

Latin America, the Third World region with the most accurate economic statistics available, also showed a quick drop in its GNP in 1981.

The Latin American GNP had grown by 6.5 percent in 1979 and by 5.8 percent in 1980, but suddenly dropped to 1.2 percent in 1981. According to information from ECLA, this was the lowest figure since 1945 (the first year showing reliable data on the evolution of the regional GNP) and was below that of the average demographic growth rate.¹

The per capita GNP dropped by a little more than one percent. This hadn't happened in Latin America since 1959.

Of the 19 countries in the ECLA list, 17 showed a reduction in the growth rate; six — Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, El Salvador and Haiti — had a reduced GNP rate; and nine showed a drop in per capita GNP.

The year 1981 was also one of economic disaster for Africa.² The African countries as a whole showed a growth rate of slightly over 3 percent, a figure barely matching the population growth rate and denoting no improvement at all in the critical living conditions of the continent's great masses.

Quite likely, the most dramatic of the negative aspects of the African economy is the food situation. In 1981, food production remained at the precarious level of the '70s, with an average annual growth rate of 1.4 percent, equivalent to almost 50 percent of the population growth rate. In other words, in a continent where only 44 percent of the arable land is under cultivation, there's less food per person now than there was in the '60s. This situation is further aggravated by the fact that 80 percent of the economically active population depends directly or indirectly on agriculture.

The least developed African countries were the most affected by the critical situation. With over one-third of the continent's population, their per capita income is less than half of the average figure in the rest of the African countries. In several of them — in the Sahel region — drought and desertification are making life unbearable for the people.

Considered as a whole, the outlook for the Third World's economic development is dim in the context of the persistent crisis resulting from its dependence on the West. At the end of 1981, 70 percent of all the underdeveloped countries were experiencing double-digit inflation, with a tendency to increase in the countries of greatest economic importance.

Fluctuations in the price of basic commodities had a disastrous effect. Taken as a whole, with the exception of oil, the price of these products dropped in 1981 by 15.6 percent, with the food sector facing an even worse fate with a drop of 21.3 percent.

Taking into account that the price of manufactured goods exported by the capitalist countries went down by 5 percent — due mainly to the appreciation of the dollar in keeping with the Reagan administration policies — we come to the conclusion that in 1981 the exporters of basic commodities had to cope with a reduction of around 21 percent in the price of their exports in comparison with the price they had to pay for imported finished products.

These price drops — which in some cases could be described as a veritable landslide — meant a loss to the Third World of 8000 million dollars in 1981, with particularly adverse effects on sugar exports.

Between October 1980 — when the price of sugar reached 40 cents a pound — and December 1981, the price of sugar plummeted by 70 percent, showing the same downward trend as most of the other primary products' prices but surpassing them in both the rate of the drop and the amount. At the time that this article was written (August 1982), the price had nosedived by almost 85 percent from the October 1980 high. A large part of the explanation for this exceptional and steady downward trend can be found in the placement on the world market of a record-breaking amount of beet sugar. Part of this beet sugar was subsidized by the European Economic Community, which persists in its refusal to join the International Sugar Agreement and abide by its regulations for the stabilization of the market.

The crisis created by the developed capitalist economies and exacerbated by the irrational economic policy being put into effect by the present U.S. administration is having a disastrous effect on the finance sector of the underdeveloped countries.

This so-called anti-inflation and "adjustment" policy, with an emphasis on monetary policy, has created two problems with disastrous consequences for the underdeveloped world: the sudden increase in interest rates and the appreciation or reevaluation of the dollar during most of 1981 (through the third quarter).

The size of the Third World's foreign debt, its runaway rate of growth and its worsening conditions — leading many experts to consider the debt totally unpayable — constitute the best example of the irrationality and inoperativeness of an obsolete international economic order. The fact that, in order to function, such an order must rely on the accumulation of a debt owed by a vast majority to a small minority, and spelling economic ruin for the former, demonstrates its absurd and destructive nature.

According to World Bank data, the Third World's foreign debt in 1981 ran to some 629 000 million dollars, more than twice the figure for 1977.

Latin America's foreign debt is also a vivid example of the harmful effects of the existing international economic order: in 1981 it grew by around 15 percent, reaching the astronomical figure of 240 000 million dollars, as compared to 208 000 million in 1980. In absolute terms, the foreign debt showed a twofold increase between 1978 and 1981.

More recent data place Latin America's foreign debt at 300 000 million dollars and increasing steadily.

Never before in the history of the international economic system controlled by imperialism has the situation of the Third World been as critical.

Never before has the need to radically transform this system been so evident.

1. Balance preliminar de la economía latinoamericana durante 1981, CEPAL E/CEPAL/L.280, Rev. 1, p. 5.

2. Survey of Economic and Social Conditions in Africa 1980-1981, E/ECA/CM.8/17, p. 4.
Speech by Adebayo Adedeji, executive secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa.

HAVANA EXPLAINS REASONS FOR DEBT RENEGOTIATION

Havana GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW in English 19 Sep 82 p 7

[Article: "Why and How Cuba Is Partially Renegotiating Its Foreign Debt"]

[Text]

● A FEW days ago the international press announced that the Cuban government had requested partial renegotiation of its foreign debt in freely convertible currency with governments and commercial banks in industrialized capitalist nations that had given credits to our country.

Granma and Prensa Latina want to provide the Cuban people and international public opinion with more information on this issue. With this in mind, the vice-president of the National Bank of Cuba, Comrade Ismael Morera, has been interviewed. Duly authorized by the government, he has given detailed information about the Cuban request.

The international press has announced that the Cuban government and the National Bank of Cuba have asked the governments and banks with which Cuba has debts in convertible currency to renegotiate our country's foreign debt. What can you tell us about this?

First of all, we must explain that Cuba has asked to renegotiate only part, not all, of its foreign debt with the governments and commercial banks of the developed capitalist countries.

What part?

Only the medium- and long-term debt, and not all of it, but only that part which comes due in the last part of 1982 and in 1983, 1984 and 1985. We have made it clear that loans and short-term bank deposits are not included in the proposed renegotiation. This is based on the assumption that the present level of those loans and deposits will be maintained — counting on the cooperation of the international banks — over the next period.

In short, what the National Bank of Cuba wants to renegotiate with its creditors is the postponement of payments in freely convertible currency which we were to make during the rest of this year and through December 1985, which comes to 1200 million dollars of our medium- and long-term foreign debt. This debt is part of the total debt of 3500 million dollars to the industrialized capitalist countries.

We propose to pay that debt over a ten-year period, during which the first three years (1983, 1984 and 1985) would be a grace period. What that means is there would be no payments until 1986 on the principal — that is, the part of the loans that falls due in these three years.

Does that mean Cuba will pay the interest?

Yes it does. Cuba will continue the interest payments, as it has been doing, on all parts of the debt — the part that is renegotiated and the part that is not.

Why has it been necessary to ask for a renegotiation of part of our foreign debt?

Cuba has been faced with a temporarily difficult situation in terms of its financial obligations with the capitalist countries as a result of two key factors. First of all, a credit restriction policy has been applied to our country, something which has become common practice with capitalist banks and governments. This is the result of the profound economic crisis which faces capitalism that has led to an even more profound financial crisis. Given the huge accumulated debt — especially of underdeveloped countries — and the repeated requests for debt renegotiations by many of them, capitalist banks have instituted a cautious policy of restrictions and withdrawals of funds. In our case, matters are made worse by Washington's aggressive campaign against Cuba, including U.S. pressure on banks and governments. All this has been reflected in the fact that during the last eight months more than 550 million dollars have been withdrawn from short-term deposits and loans usually maintained by international banks in our country. This is a blow which no economy the size of Cuba's can sustain without defending itself.

We must also mention that there has been a big increase in the interest Cuba has had to pay as a result of the senseless economic policy of the Reagan administration. This increase came to 195 million dollars in 1981 and 233 million in 1982, for a grand total of 428 million dollars in two years.

The other factor is the abrupt and tragic fall in the price of sugar. A large share of the blame for this goes to the sugar policy of the European Economic Community, which is engaged in heavily subsidized and increasing exports of sugar and refuses to adhere to the International Sugar Agreement. Also to blame are the measures taken by the United States to restrict its sugar imports.

As a result of these policies, during the last few weeks the price of sugar has dropped to six cents a pound, which compared to international prices existing in 1954 equals about 1.5 cents a pound.

Wasn't it possible to anticipate this situation and avoid its consequences?

Since last year, as the gradual worsening of the international financial situation became evident, the Party and government took drastic steps to sharply cut back on imports from the capitalist countries that were not absolutely essential. Thus, imports in freely convertible currency which in some years were as high as 1800 million dollars were reduced to 600 million in 1982, at current international market prices.

Does this mean that Cuba is in a position of bankruptcy?

Of course not, because bankruptcy would mean the impossibility of meeting existing obligations, with the resulting heavy losses for the creditors. Our case is very different, since it is a postponement and not a bankruptcy. Our government and the National Bank of Cuba have reaffirmed that the country, true to the tradition of the Revolution, will honor all financial and commercial commitments. That is, bankruptcy means insolvency, the inability to pay, and that is not our situation. We will continue to earn money from our exports — which are quite numerous — although as we have seen these exports have been hampered by price problems. We have other sources of income which assure us that we will have the means with which to meet our obligations (paying the interest and the principal on the debt falling due from 1986 on) and we will also be able to make the payments we have postponed. When the economic report presented by the National Bank to governments

and banks is reviewed, it will be perfectly clear that the Cuban economy is basically solid.

Is the renegotiation which Cuba has requested something unusual?

By no means. The renegotiation which our country has proposed falls in line with the situation facing underdeveloped countries in general, which from 1970 to June 1982 renegotiated a total of 47 475 million dollars. Since 1970, nearly 30 underdeveloped countries have totally or partially renegotiated their debts.

This difficult financial situation facing the underdeveloped countries, including some with considerable oil deposits, is due to the constant instability of the world capitalist economy, which is subject to continual economic crises. The most recent of these crises — the one in the last two years — is of unprecedented gravity, especially in the financial field, and threatens to equal and perhaps surpass the 1929-33 capitalist economic crisis known as the Great Depression.

The underdeveloped countries have been the main victims of this crisis of capitalism. Inflation has significantly cut down on the foreign purchasing power of the underdeveloped countries. The capitalist recession has also lowered the prices of raw materials, semifinished goods and basic commodities exported by the nations of the so-called Third World.

As a result of all this, the debt burden of the underdeveloped countries now comes to more than 500 000 million dollars, not including debts for short-term loans and deposits which are estimated at 140 000 million dollars.

This huge debt of the underdeveloped countries has jeopardized the financial stability of international banking, which as a precautionary measure, but risking the danger of having its own measures contribute to the complete collapse of the entire world financial system, has decided to restrict medium- and long-term loans. This has forced the underdeveloped countries to dangerously increase their short-term debt. This is what has brought the international financial scene to the brink of bankruptcy and has made it increasingly more difficult for underdeveloped countries to meet their financial obligations in the time periods covered by the loans.

What terms or conditions has Cuba requested for renegotiation?

The terms are that payments on principal falling due in the rest of this year and from 1983-85 will be made over a ten-year period which would include a three-year grace period. Cuba would start payments on the debt in 1986 for seven years while interest payments continue normally.

Short-term loans and deposits, as I explained, are not included in the renegotiation, since we have requested the cooperation of international banks to maintain them at current levels, which are modest in view of the value of our total trade with capitalist countries.

Of course, this requires that banks with short- and medium-term deposits renew them — as they were doing before withdrawal of the 550 million we mentioned. Ways of maintaining current levels — fully in keeping with Cuba's financial potential — will be discussed from now on by the National Bank of Cuba with the depositor banks.

Does this renegotiation result from any weakness of the Cuban economy?

Absolutely not. Paradoxically, Cuba is having to deal with the result of this situation at a time when its economy is the most solid and the outlook is the best. This was explained by our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro on the 26th of July and is covered in greater detail and with data in the above-mentioned report of the National Bank of Cuba.

As is well known, Cuba's development does not depend on its economic ties with the capitalist countries. Our economic development is assured, guaranteed by the relations existing with CMEA member states and first of all the substantial, constant and equitable cooperation between the economies of the USSR and Cuba.

Is Cuba's situation related in any way to events in Mexico?

It's the same situation, only the magnitude of the problem is much greater in Mexico, because in just one year Mexico is renegotiating 17 000 million dollars of a debt of 80 000 million dollars. But Mexico is only the most recent case. As I said previously, in the last 15 years at least 29 countries have renegotiated their debt. According to the specialized publication *Euromoney*, these countries are:

Argentina	Kampuchea	Romania
Bolivia	Liberia	Senegal
Costa Rica	Madagascar	Sierra Leone
Chile	Malawi	Sudan
Guyana	Nicaragua	Togo
Ghana	Pakistan	Turkey
Honduras	Peru	Uganda
India	Poland	Vietnam
Indonesia	Central African	Yugoslavia
Jamaica	Republic	Zaire

What impact will the renegotiation have on Cuba's relations with capitalist countries?

If it takes place as we have proposed, in the long run the impact will be beneficial for relations between Cuba and the capitalist creditor nations, because it will place the international finances of our country on a sound footing. We will not reduce economic ties with the socialist or underdeveloped countries. The 2nd Congress of our Party approved a permanent policy of adequate political and economic relations with industrialized capitalist countries. That is, Cuba's policy and its implementation will depend on the willingness of the governments and banks of those countries to establish mutually advantageous relations with Cuba based on renegotiation of our financial relations.

What impact will it have on the development of the Cuban economy and the standard of living of our people?

Look, since I'm a specialist in the financial field and banking, I'm not really the best person to answer that question. I wouldn't answer had I not been able in the last few days to work with comrades with great responsibilities in the national economy. I listened to their viewpoints and I will pass on their ideas to you.

Of course it would be absurd for any of us to underestimate the negative aspects of the renegotiation, because it will certainly lead to problems in Cuba's credit status, even though Cuba is only one of many countries which have renegotiated and international experts feel that this year and in the next few years nearly all developing countries will be forced to do likewise. This issue was one of the demands raised by Comrade Fidel on behalf of the developing countries in his very important speech at the 34th session of the UN General Assembly, in which he said that the debts of least developed countries should be eliminated.

Regarding the direct effects on the people, we have been told that in planning for 1983 the financial situation that developed in 1981 and 1982 was taken into account, so the plans which were drafted are in keeping with the restrictions imposed by the world economic situation and the drop in sugar prices. In light of these inevitable restrictions, Comrade Fidel has repeatedly spoken to our people about these problems and, in particular on the 26th of July, announcing with the clear and frank style characteristic of our political leadership that difficult situations were approaching. If the renegotiation takes place normally, as everything seems to indicate, the negative impact will be felt chiefly in what is called social consumption, where there will be some restrictions, and some national industries will be affected by a shortage of raw materials which will not be imported.

We have been given instructions to give priority in our imports to everything related to the sugar industry, since it is our chief source of foreign exchange, and also to imports of food and medicine.

The comrades of the National Bank and of the Ministry of Foreign Trade, under the leadership of the Party and the government, are already working with Cuba's trading partners to clear up any possible confusion about our position or trade policy, which as we indicated will continue on the same basis as before. We don't want the flow of trade relations with Cuba to be cut off and we plan to import and export while achieving an orderly development of the renegotiation process. That is the goal and if it is achieved the negative impact will not be worse than what our political leadership has already outlined.

In terms of the national economy, we must now work better than in the last few years, which have been the best in terms of economic efficiency. The leadership of the country has taken measures to obtain greater efficiency in production for export and better utilization of the materials we must import. I know that the management, with the support of the Party, the Young Communist League and the mass organizations, will mobilize the people to help achieve this goal.

CSO: 3200/3

FORCES IN ANGOLA CANNOT BE LINKED TO NAMIBIAN SOLUTION

Havana GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW in English 5 Sep 82 p 3

[Article by Rodolfo Casals]

[Text]



FOR MANY years, the South African racists and their imperialist allies have been blocking a solution to the Namibian issue and doing all they can to prevent the independence of that territory, which Pretoria holds illegally in violation of UN resolutions. In their efforts to block implementation of Resolution 435 approved by the UN Security Council in 1978, which outlines the steps for decolonization, the governments of the United States and South Africa are carrying out a series of maneuvers aimed at achieving through negotiations what they have been unable to win in battle.

The enemies of Namibia seek to transform the country into a neocolony and to install a puppet regime in power which would be based on the racist Democratic Turnhalle Alliance and tribal-oriented parties which do not respond to the aspirations of the masses.

Meanwhile, the Reagan administration — which unconditionally backs South Africa and views it as a loyal friend — is trying to present a distorted picture of the situation. It has undertaken intense diplomatic and political efforts through the Contact Group, made up of the United States, West Germany, Great Britain, France and Canada, to impose a fraudulent constitution before holding the free elections provided for by the UN plan. This is part of an attempt to perpetuate the interests and privileges of the transnationals in Namibia and South Africa and block the development of a genuinely popular government.

The United States and South Africa make no secret of the fact that they are unhappy over UN recognition of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), the only legitimate representative of the Namibian people. Because of this they want to get the UN out of the picture and have accused it of bias in this classical case of colonial rule.

The latest U.S.-South African maneuver to sabotage the implementation of Resolution 435 has been to make the independence of Namibia conditional upon the withdrawal of Cuban internationalist forces from Angola. With its pressure and campaign of lies, the Reagan administration is trying to deprive Angola of its sovereign right to seek unselfish help from its friends, while diverting attention from growing imperialist intervention in the internal affairs of the states in southern Africa, paving the way for an escalation of racist attacks, delaying a settlement of the Namibia issue and continuing colonial rule indefinitely.

Cuba and Angola have repeatedly said that the stationing of internationalist troops, in response to South African threats and

attacks, is a sovereign and legitimate act taken by the two countries and thus cannot in any way be linked to Namibia, as the imperialists and racists are trying to do.

As is well known, Cuban troops have been in Angola since 1975 at the request of the government of that country, which at the time was seriously threatened by a U.S.-backed South African invasion from bases in Namibia and by aggression from the north by counterrevolutionary, mercenary and Zairian troops.

Cuban internationalist aid helped to stop the invaders on the outskirts of Luanda and then drive them out of Angola shortly afterwards. It was clearly an important contribution to the struggle of the African peoples against colonialism and racism, because after having taken Angola these forces had planned to extend their domination to other countries of the region.

However, following the failure of the large-scale invasion the South African regime has continued to carry out attacks on Angola, with heavy losses of life and property, in order to obstruct the process of national construction and destabilize and overthrow the MPLA-Party of Labor government. Meanwhile, the United States and South Africa finance, arm and advise the Angolan counterrevolutionary bands based in Namibia while staging a series of attacks on Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Lesotho and other Front Line states. In the case of the latter countries, the United States and South Africa hope to reverse their political processes because of the backing those countries give to the Namibian people and the African National Congress of South Africa.

As explained in the statement signed by the Cuban and Angolan foreign ministers on February 4, whether or not Cuban internationalist forces stay in Angola is exclusively a bilateral issue between the two countries.

But there is more. After the expulsion of the South African forces in early 1976, Cuba and Angola worked out a program for the gradual reduction of the internationalist contingent, but this was halted by the threats, provocations and aggression of South Africa. Another troop reduction plan was agreed upon in 1979, but South Africa once again carried out large-scale attacks on Angola. This shows that it has been impossible to fulfill the Angolan-Cuban agreements because of the constant attacks of the South African racists.

Cuba and Angola have made it clear they are willing to consider a renewal of the withdrawal process for internationalist fighters in the period of time stipulated by both governments, if the threats of aggression against Angola cease. Such a situation would exist once the South Africans end their illegal occupation of Namibia, which they use as a base for attacking Angola, and remove their troops; and when a solution based on Security Council Resolution 435 is reached, and a genuinely independent Namibian government has been established.

When there is no longer any chance of an attack or invasion of Angola, the withdrawal of the internationalists will take place at the time the Cuban and Angolan governments see fit. But this withdrawal can never be the subject of haggling or pressure from third parties such as the United States and South Africa, and it can't in any way be linked to the process of independence in Namibia.

U.S. SAID TO BE HAMPERING TOURISM GROWTH

Havana GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW in English 19 Sep 82 p 8

[Article by Jorge Timossi]

[Text]

● ACAPULCO (PL). — At the Second World Conference on Tourism held here the Cuban delegation said that the U.S. blockade obstructs the development of tourism, which should contribute to a just international order and world peace.

The Cuban delegation was headed by Dixie Echeverría, vice-president of the National Institute of Tourism. About 100 countries were represented at the event.

The views of the Cuban delegation were presented by Pedro Monzón, director of national tourism, and he expressed support for the Manila Declaration, which was adopted at the 1st World Conference on Tourism held in that city two years ago.

Monzón said the Cuban government feels tourism is "inherent to the very nature of man" and a fundamental factor "in the development of ties of solidarity among all countries, the creation of a just international order and the development of a climate of world peace."

The Cuban delegation, on behalf of the non-aligned countries; Pakistan, on behalf of the Islamic nations; and all Arab delegations except Egypt walked out when the Israeli delegate spoke, in protest for the attack by that country on Lebanon.

The Cuban delegation explained its experiences in the field of international tourism "following a long period of isolation imposed by the U.S. blockade, which is once again being used as a threat" to the free development of tourism.

Cuba wants to regain its former position as a tourist spot in the Caribbean, despite the difficulties facing it as a developing country, made worse by the capitalist economic recession and inflation.

Monzón said Cuba has made efforts to guarantee the availability of tourism to the Cuban people, within the limitations posed by the level of economic development amidst "a world situation marked by unequal exchange and the widespread pernicious influences of the capitalist economic recession."

FERVENT CALL FOR PEACE

The event concluded with a fervent call for peace and opposition to nuclear war.

The call is contained in the Acapulco Declaration and the closing speech by the secretary for tourism of Mexico, Rosa Luz Alegria, who chaired the event.

The conference, which started on August 21, was attended by 78 developed capitalist, developing and socialist countries, along with 57 observer delegations.

In her closing speech, Rosa Luz Alegria said the conference urged all states of the world to display "a sensible attitude" and oppose "an abhorrent nuclear holocaust." She added that the objective was genuine and lasting peace along with shared, equitable and just progress, taking into account that "the errors of the strongest damage the weakest."

She said the Acapulco Declaration is a code of conduct which springs from a meeting of peace and friendship held in a political framework of respect.

The document reiterates and broadens some aspects of the Manila Declaration enacted two years ago in the Philippine capital. Basically it states that world tourism can be a vital force for world peace and contributes to the implementation of a new international economic order. It notes that the evolution of tourism

is closely linked to the social, economic and cultural context of each country.

Regarding the issue of freedom of movement it says that "economic and social conditions, traditions, rights and civic obligations must be taken into account" and states are urged to implement these proposals.

The document concludes with 20 guidelines or recommendations for states, among them recognition of the right to rest and free time and, especially, paid vacations.

Delegates also approved a resolution condemning the Israeli attack on Lebanon.

CSO: 3200/3

LAUNCHING OF 1982-83 FAR TRAINING YEAR HAILED

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish No 34, 26 Aug 82 pp 4-5

[Editorial: "For a Successful 1982-1983 Training Year!"]

[Text] This coming 1 September, the 1982-1983 training year will begin, and with it a new period of continual strengthening of combat and mobilization readiness, in which the soldiers, sailors, commissioned and noncommissioned officers will contribute a maximum of their energies and potential in order to implement the decisions in the military sector established by the Second Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba.

The levels achieved last year, the conditioning, development and perfecting of the material base for study, the quality of the methodological meetings recently concluded, the planning activities and the other preparatory tasks are creating the necessary conditions for carrying out a successful training year.

The experience gathered to date, the changes made in the qualitative structure of the new conscriptees for active military service and the ever increasing complexity of training are making it possible gradually to introduce structural modifications to the sequence and the content of the training courses, which will result in superior training and combat cohesion.

The development of high-level political-moral, military, psychological and physical attributes are the basic goals of the training and education of the troops for this year. The purpose is to prepare combatants for different situations and conditions as close as possible to the real ones in combat, and steadily to increase the combat readiness level of the small, medium and large units.

In achieving these cardinal goals it is necessary to devote concern first of all to the phases of training for soldiers and sailors, as well as squads and crews; to stress and deepen training in each teaching activity; to apply and popularize the advance experience in training and firing exercise, driving, and tactical training and maneuvers classes; and to adopt measures to ensure the greatest possible economy in resources available, without affecting the quality of instruction.

The important and complex tasks set forth for the troops and the general and other staffs without a doubt require perfecting the methods and style of work and achieving greater efficiency, on the basis of the achievement of the goals set forth with the least expenditure of material, human and time resources. It requires perfecting planning, control and leadership of combat and political training and making the aid given commanders and subordinate officers, in particular those of small and average units, constantly more effective and educational.

The style of work should be manifested in the application of the most effective procedures, forms, methods and means, to ensure the successful completion of the missions assigned in all military activities and the tasks inherent in the defense of the socialist fatherland. The basic characteristics of this style should be ideological conviction, a high-level party spirit, dialectical consistency between word and deed and theory and practice, close relationships with personnel, a combination of collective leadership with single command, honesty, simplicity, exemplary behavior and a highly critical and self-critical attitude toward the shortcomings and difficulties which develop.

In the process of training combatants, commissioned and noncommissioned officers and command units, a resolute and daily struggle against routine, formalism, oversimplification and violation of the norms established in the regulations, manuals, firing courses, programs and methodological instructions should be waged. Periodical analyses of the organization and development of combat and political training should be profound and many-sided. They should deal with the problems affecting the training of the troops broadly and in critical and self-critical fashion, and they should seek the solutions required at each moment.

The success of this new year will be the greater the more the proven principles of training are put into practice. This means observance of the communist ideology and party loyalty, unity of training and education, instruction of the troops in everything necessary for war and under conditions as close as possible to combat, closely linking training of the troops and their high level of combat readiness, and the coordination of individual training of the combatants with the training of small units.

Continuing constantly to work on caring for, perfecting and developing the major and minor study materials program such that it will fully measure up to the increasing demands of training is an absolute prerequisite. An important factor in perfecting the study materials program is the rationalization and innovation movement, which has continually advanced and produced results which demonstrate in encouraging and exemplary fashion how the multiple problems pertaining to increasing combat readiness can be dealt with in a resolved and creative and successful fashion.

Attention must be devoted to methodological activities with the leaders, supervision of the preparation of theoretical and practical classes and the development of the conditions necessary for teaching such classes on a high pedagogical level. A movement to promote aid of and exchange of experiences with young officers must be developed. In such a movement, a decisive role is played

by the commanders and officer with more experience in training and educating the troops, and those whose units have achieved the greatest success in their work.

It is necessary to continue to take steps to make the training of commanders, officers, general and other staffs more efficient through the use of various forms and methods, to create habits through the organization and pursuit of cooperation in complex situations, to achieve mastery and skillful use of organic and support forces and resources, to increase understanding of the structure and combat use of our own units and those of the enemy, to train commanders in the most objective and efficient manner in the making of timely decisions and continual command of the troops under conditions as close as possible to the reality of combat.

The field training of the troops should ensure the development of practical habits among the personnel for actions by day or night and under any conditions, and lead to a high level of cohesion between the units and the command bodies. Tactical training and firing practice are of great importance to the achievement of these goals.

In tactical training as the basis of field training, it is necessary to ensure that each tactical training exercise, class and maneuver is preceded by detailed preparation which will guarantee maximal assimilation and mastery by the personnel. If this is to be achieved, it is essential that this develop within the framework of the most complex situations.

In firing practice it is necessary to work to ensure that the soldiers master their weapons fully, as well as the fundamentals and rules for their use. They must be trained in and become accustomed to finding and estimating the distance to targets, grenade throwing and accurate firing, and their goal must be to destroy the target with the first shot or volley, in the least possible time and using the least possible ammunition. A leading role is played in the achievement of these results by the proper organization of classes and preparatory exercises, special attention to the least skillful combatants, exchange of experience with the veteran marksmen in the unit, and strict checking before assignment to combat-level firing.

The various forms and methods of political and ideological work with the troops, including socialist emulation, constitute a determining factor in achieving the goals for the training year. This is the reason for the importance of organizing the study and popularizing of the directive issued by the minister of the FAR [Revolutionary Armed Forces], holding the pledge assemblies and emulation checks in an educational, concrete, objective and solemn fashion, using the full potential of the various incentives, reporting the results of the emulation, stressing the individual and collective examples set by the vanguard individuals and units and popularizing advance experience. It is necessary to ensure that emulation, through competition and various other forms, contributes to reducing time norms, raising the level of mastery, cohesion and combat readiness, and maintaining high availability of combat technology and weaponry. It should be intention and the moral commitment of each combatant, from the smallest to the largest unit, to achieve the highest outstanding and vanguard indices and generously to surpass last year's results.

The commanders, officers and members of the party and the UJC [Union of Young Communists] should be the leaders in the instruction process, raising initiative and spirit to its highest expression and communicating their exemplary attitude to the vast mass of combatants.

Becoming better trained and ready to carry out any combat mission assigned us by the party, the commander in chief or the minister of the FAR should be the slogan and the goal for each educational activity, every day, in each phase, in every period and throughout this training year which we are launching now, in order to make the mandate of our second party congress a reality:

"Cuba will be ready to defend itself against any Yankee imperialist military blockade or invasion! The struggle will never cease in this country while a single patriot capable of fighting remains, and there are millions prepared to fight to the last drop of their blood." "He who tries to seize Cuba," as Titan de Bronze said, "will find the dust of its soil soaked in blood, if he does not perish in the struggle."

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CSO: 3010/2339

MILITARY MEDICAL DETACHMENT COURSEWORK DESCRIBED

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish No 34, 26 Aug 82 pp 6-7

[Article by Roberto Morejon and Carlos Gorina in the form of a letter from a soldier at the IPUEC [Pre-University Farming and Academic Institute] in Guines, dated 18 August 1982, "24th Year of the Revolution"]

[Text] Dear parents:

I am a little late in writing you because I find myself within the broad and unpredictable world of physics and chemistry, surrounded by formulae, the elements Cl, Fe and Ag, helium nuclei, magnetic fields, stationary states of the atom....In brief, we candidate members of the Carlos J. Finlay Detachment of the FAR [Revolutionary Armed Forces] are spending 15 days preparing for the three final examinations in these two subjects and Spanish. I have already taken and passed the last-mentioned exam.

There is an atmosphere of tension, although we have been prepared for the rigor of these examinations, since the teachers were demanding as to the subject content. However, we always fear the unknown: What will the questions prove to be? Can I answer them all with the necessary calm?

In Spanish, at least, I could. I drew a dictated passage from Guillen, the "Elegy to Jesus Menendez," no less, which I was supposed to punctuate correctly. As you can imagine, poets have license, and therefore I thought twice or three times before placing a comma.

I had to abandon this letter for a while because my comrades insisted that we had little time before the physics exam, and therefore they wanted me to help them clarify the acceleration in $V^2 = V_0^2 + 2as$. If it were all as easy as that! There are some subjects here which are indeed tough. We should have Einstein to help us!

Obviously, there are some subjects which seem more difficult for us because of the time we have been away from them. Perhaps this is why we frequently invoke the blessings of Einstein.

The fact is that while talking of physics and chemistry, I have not asked you about my brothers. I know about you from the last letter I received. I hope

my sweetheart is paying you the visits she cannot pay me because we are so far apart. No matter, tell her I am sure that I will get into the university. There I will see her every day.

Here we have all prepared very well, although obviously there are more candidates for the Carlos J. Finlay medical sciences detachment than there are places to be filled. Thus the final selection is a demanding process. What is indeed guaranteed is that the best comrades will be accepted.

In these two weeks prior to the final examinations, the teachers have undertaken numerous reviews and have tied up such loose ends as may have remained from the regular course. No, we did not have the classes over again. There was no need. At least that is what Mario, my physics teacher, says. And it is a fact that the teachers have made a daily effort, something for which we are thankful.

You must indeed tell grandmother that this teacher is 22, only 2 years older than I. I once mentioned this to him and he refused to believe that such a thing was possible. That's the way the revolution is. He is a graduate of the pedagogical detachment, and he has now been teaching for 6 years (counting the time he was in the detachment).

You asked me if I am not having difficulty with some subjects. Yes, I have had some. Just today, before going to the exam, I was worried about atomic physics. And in Spanish, I made one spelling error, if not more. But I have indeed improved greatly here. In reading, I was one of the best.

I have not told you that I was assigned to a hospital guard unit. There I saw some people injured in a crash, and one even died. I must admit that at the beginning it turned my stomach. But, the cadaver before us, we listened to the doctor's explanation of the causes of death. And we got out on our feet!

I want to tell you about the effort made by a number of students who, because they studied certain specific technologies, had not covered some aspects of physics and chemistry which they need now for this course. The teachers here taught these subjects, but you can imagine after all that these comrades had their difficulties with the interim exams. But now I see them here, ready to give their all for the final examinations, after several weeks of eliminating doubts. Tell Enrique that his brother is one of these individuals, but we have given him a tremendous boost and I am sure he will pass.

There is no doubt that he will be able to handle a teaching program like this, and in doing so, he should have no difficulties in medicine. That's how demanding the course we have just finished is. Every little while we are reminded of this by the leadership at the center, the political officer.

Curiously, writing this letter has calmed my nerves. Others I see here are more worried. In that group, they are all talking at once and no one is listening to what is being said. It is an uproar with a mixture of terms--electrical resonance, atoms, kiloHertz, constant values, etc. My bunkmate has sharpened his pencil three times. Isn't it right yet?

We have been told that the greater part of the experience obtained from this course will be useful in the next, which will begin for the military service comrades covered by Order 20, who want to embark on various university courses, in September. We are aware that we are contributing to facilitating this process by our conduct and educational accomplishments.

Well, it's time for my exam now. I will leave you.

Here I am again. I have just been in an argument because we could not agree whether the physics examination was very hard or simply "tolerable." Easy it was not. Personally, I got one part wrong, but I think I made a good grade.

We will have the graduation ceremony on Tuesday, and by then we will know what courses we have qualified for.

We are getting toward the end. Chemistry remains, but as they say in sports, we are almost to the finish line. (A propos, did you see Juantorena in the Central American Games? What a guy! We are near the finish of our race now with these final examinations.)

I hope I do well. I'll let you know about it. Greetings to all. I wrote to my sweetheart yesterday, as well as the people in the neighborhood. One of the "Juantorenas" of physics, chemistry and Spanish now takes leave of you.

More soon.

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CSO: 3010/2339

AGRICULTURE MINISTER AT FAO CONFERENCE

PA160049 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 8 Sep 82 pp 1, 6

[Text] The 17th FAO Conference for Latin America ended yesterday. Arnolando Millan Castro, vice president of the Cuban Council of Ministers and Cuban agriculture minister, established in his closing speech that food problems are at the very core of the contemporary international situation in reference to both political and economic problems.

He recalled that the UN General Assembly has recognized that access to food is a fundamental human right. Nevertheless, in recent years food has been used as a weapon in the arsenal of imperialism, and imperialism has used so-called "food aid" to try and force the developing countries, which are making efforts to follow independent courses, to submit to its dictates, he said.

Concerning the present U.S. Republican administration, he said that it has often tried to pressure, coerce and blackmail the developing countries that are struggling to rescue their sovereignty and reaffirm their identities as independent nations of the world. "These are imperialistic actions and must be strongly condemned by the world community," he said.

He said that imperialism attempts to adopt measures to separate the food problem from the other elements that make up international economic relations. "Therefore, we must declare--and we request this conference to confirm--that the problems of food are an integral and indivisible part of all the economic problems that affect the underdeveloped countries."

He blamed the present economic crisis on the industrialized capitalist countries, stating that they generate it. The weak economies of the underdeveloped countries are being hit increasingly harder by this crisis.

The Cuban agriculture minister recalled part of a speech delivered by Fidel Castro, the chief of the Cuban Revolutionary Government, in 1979 when he spoke at the 34th UN General Assembly about the inflation that is exported to us, protectionism, the imbalance that exists in the exploration for marine resources, the shortage of financial resources, arms expenses, the international monetary system and other similar measures that cause the economic gap between the developed countries and those that are trying to develop, a gap that increases rather than decreases and which should disappear.

Everything said by President Castro in 1979 "is still valid today" emphasized Millan Castro, who added his condemnation of the sugar production subsidy policy of the EEC, which contributes to the erosion of the prices in the world sugar market. This in turn leads to bankruptcy of the sugar-producing countries, he said.

He asked the delegates to the 17th FAO Conference for Latin America not to remain indifferent to the massacre of peasants and rural inhabitants being perpetrated in some countries of the region under the direction of ruling forces, representatives of powerful classes, with imperialist support.

He requested the vigorous condemnation of these barbaric actions and the promotion of the right to a better life for those who produce food for humankind with their sweat and toil.

He reaffirmed the principle that agrarian reform is a prerequisite for rural development, since its establishment in Cuba has permitted not only agricultural development but the initiation of a simultaneous and consistent industrial development, as well.

In other parts of his speech, Millan Castro reaffirmed the conviction that U.S. imperialism has resorted to the use of biological weapons against Cuba and referred to the fact that other countries of the Caribbean Basin have also suffered the devastating effects of blue tobacco mold, sugar cane smut and rust disease, to give a few examples that clearly indicate the need for subregional instruments in the FAO to provide agricultural sanitary protection for the member countries.

He asked for a legal instrument to protect the just right of peoples to enjoy the wealth of their oceans. In this respect he expressed satisfaction at the program of the director general for the development of exclusive economic zones for the developing countries and the call by the FAO for a world conference on fishing development and regulations in the near future.

CSO: 3248/37

DEVELOPMENTS IN VETERINARY MEDICINE IN HOLGUIN NOTED

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 13 Aug 82 p 33

[Interview with Dr Julio Cesar Verdecia, director of the Institute of Veterinary Medicine in Holguin Province, by Magda Martinez; Holguin Province, date not specified]

[Text] I spent over 2 hours talking with Dr Julio Cesar Verdecia, director of the Institute of Veterinary Medicine in Holguin Province, and this really turned out to be highly beneficial.

Dr Verdecia gave me an outline of developments in veterinary medicine in the province. Above everything he stressed that 1981 was used to lay the foundations for the results of 1982.

"We have ambitious plans for this year," Verdecia assured me, and he focused on the specific point at issue. "We must identify once more the centers of brucellosis and tuberculosis in the province. We must put emphasis on ridding the ranches in Sagua and Mayari from these diseases. By 1982 they will be completely free from them."

We then returned to discussing the 56-point plan designed to insure that violations do not occur and that the level of compliance with the regulations does not drop.

"What is the situation regarding veterinary medicine personnel in the units?"

"Our veterinary surgeons have autonomy and authority," Verdecia answered.

"Now, this does not come about merely by virtue of their appointment. The personnel responsible for such a task must set the example. They must earn respect, because respect does not fall from heaven. The livestock subdelegation supports and checks at the base compliance with veterinary directives. Its members see to it that the state-of-the-art is maintained.

"Our fundamental effort revolves around prevention," Verdecia continued.

"Measures have been decreed on the farms to guarantee the health of the animals and fewer drugs are being wasted. The result of this development is that the livestock-raising entities are more cost-conscious."

"What was livestock mortality like in 1981?"

"In accordance with the plan it dropped, and this averted the death of 1,184 head of cattle. The mortality rate stood at 5.2 percent among new-born animals even though 4.3 percent had been targeted. However, viral diseases and leptopyrosis took their toll.

"Holguin Province has 92 veterinary surgeons but in truth it needs 40 more. The situation is analogous in terms of technicians and assistants.

"The range of services involved in the sector includes bovine cattle, sheep and goats, horses, poultry, apiculture, hogs, border services, sanitary control, environmental control, the private sector, and the laboratory sector.

"The province lacks irrigated areas to guarantee the availability of fodder during dry seasons. Thus, the shortfall in feed impacts heavily on animal husbandry. [Water] supplies are directed to the sugarcane sector and thus the livestock sector is unable to meet its needs.

"The drought impacts on our efforts," Verdecia stressed. "This means under-feeding of animals. Under such conditions the pasturelands cannot support sufficient births."

We wished to elaborate more on a point. Verdecia explained to us the establishment of an organ at the municipal level.

"In April 1981 studies were completed to establish a municipal structure. That administration has the following under its jurisdiction: Sanitary control, borders, the laboratory sector, supervision of the private sector, apiculture, poultry-raising, and hog-raising."

"What are the results following a year of such effort?"

"Greater control at the base. This is a small area of work and it permits better control over epizootological problems. Any sickness is detected in time. It is a faster early warning mechanism. The level of technical information has improved."

Dr Julio Cesar Verdecia invited me to return in 1983. At that time I shall be able to tour the area with a professional belonging to the provincial organ to see how the development has fared and to observe the implementation of the measures. Specifically, I shall be able to visit Sagua, Mayari, and other localities. Undoubtedly, I shall make that visit when the time comes.

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CSO: 3010/2335

REPORTAGE ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH POLAND

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 13 Aug 82 p 33

[Report on interview with Marian Korpik, trade attache at the Polish Trade Office in Havana, by Serafin Marrero; Havana; date not specified]

[Text] Over 2 decades of economic cooperation between Poland and Cuba prompted the correspondents of BOHEMIA ECONOMICA to request an interview with comrade Marian Korpik, trade attache at the Polish Trade Office in our capital.

Marian Korpik told us: "Commercial and economic contacts between Poland and Cuba date back to early 1960 when the ministers of foreign trade of our two countries signed a trade agreement involving an amount of 24 million rubles over the 1960-70 period.

"From that time," the Polish trade attache continued, "the credits granted by Poland to Cuba have played an important role. For example, in 1960 the initial credit amounted to over 10 million rubles with which Cuba was able to acquire different industrial plants in turnkey condition. Other credits were also offered to the first free territory of America during 1972, 1975, and 1979."

Comrade Korpik, who was on the eve of returning to his country on vacation, turned for an instant to his secretary who informed him that "your passage to Warsaw has been confirmed."

Our dialogue then moved to a discussion of the branches of the Cuban economy involved in this cooperation with Poland. After looking for some documents Korpik informed us that "Polish-Cuban cooperation is directed principally at the naval, iron and steel, sugar, pressed bagasse sheets, and paper industries. Additionally, Poland supplies to Cuba equipment for the construction of glassmaking plants and the food industry as well as light aircraft for use in agriculture and the well-known Fiat-Poland automobiles.

We asked him to elaborate a little more on which goals in particular this economic cooperation involved. The attache of the Polish Trade Office made a friendly gesture and said:

"Naturally, Among industrial goals one can mention the cast and malleable iron plant which specialists of the two countries are now completing in

Guantanamo; the Casablanca shipyard in the city of Havana; the modernization of the Damuji paper plant; our assistance in the expansion of the Cardenas paper plant as well as the modernization of the Procuba panel plant and the technical lumber plant.

"Also in Cardenas," Korpik added, "we are building jointly with Cuban engineers, technicians, and workers a coach, principally freight car, plant even though last year the plant produced its first passenger coach. An agreement was signed in 1979 for the construction of a pasteboard and cardboard plant in Santa Cruz del Norte."

Korpik recalled that "cooperation with the sugarcane industry involves the supply of centrifuges and pumps as well as the design of equipment and technologies and the services of Polish specialists for the organization of sugar production."

Regarding the possible prospective expansion of Cuban-Polish cooperation Marian Korpak expressed optimism.

"Naturally," he exclaimed smiling, "we have possibilities to expand this cooperation in future in more dynamic fashion, in sectors in which Poland has chalked up notable experience during the 37 years of the People's Government."

"We are having difficulties today, we are experiencing some problems, but everything can be solved. In the future as in the past, we shall lend assistance and shall increase our cooperation with Cuba. This can be expanded in such areas as naval construction, mechanization and automation, the paper, lumber, and iron and steel industries, the construction and repair of ships, the sugar industry, and agriculture. Both our sides wish to expand this cooperation."

Our brotherly dialogue with the Polish trade attache came to an end with a final question:

"Comrade Korpik, how do you evaluate the economic cooperation between Poland and Cuba?"

"I believe that our economic cooperation has a major influence on the development of the industry and the economy in both our countries. In the years past we have had great success and acquired much experience. In the past trade and economic cooperation have increased. We Poles are pleased with the results of this cooperation and we hope that it will increase even more as we solve our problems."

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CSO: 3010/2335

GRADUATES' SOCIAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES EXPLAINED

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 13 Aug 82 p 34

[Article by Luis Rodriguez Balmaseda: "The Social Service: A Positive Experience in the Life of the Graduate"]

[Text] The Cuban experience in the field of our graduates' performing social service has been very positive. The youths understand that education is a permanent process and that offering social service represents an important stage in the life of any graduate.

Dozens of professional youths in the most varied fields are to be found nowadays in different countries in support of our internationalist principles, lending their experiences and specialized skills and at the same time fulfilling their social service commitments.

At home, across the country, physicians, engineers, teachers, and various technicians are also to be found, lending their service in those locations where they are needed.

Our graduate youths are always present where priority tasks are to be performed.

Moa and Cienfuegos are good examples. Or whatever the social and economic development of Cuba mandates--that is where they will go to lend their skills.

These graduates are clearly aware that their duty consists in offering society, which through its labors and effort has made the graduates' training possible, the knowledge they have acquired, especially if one considers that the country's advance in the building of a socialist society mandates the participation of all the technical and cultural labor force which annually graduates from our universities and the centers of technical and professional education.

Nevertheless, there is an old saying, well known by everyone, which has it that "there are no rules without exceptions," and obviously there is always a small minority which, on very rare occasions, has refused to perform their social service.

For these cases legally applicable sanctions are available in accordance with the provisions in Law 1254 of 2 August 1973.

There it is stated that those graduates who must perform social service but refuse to do so or to agree to perform it at the location where they are assigned, without duly justified reasons, will be denied the right to practice their profession for a period of 3 years.

Such disqualification, which in the case of males is communicated to their draft boards, mandates a procedure that we explain herewith.

It is up to the organ to which the graduate has been assigned to request his disqualification. Such a request must be filed with the directorate of labor legislation of the State Labor and Social Security Committee.

The request will have to substantiate the reason, explaining and providing the evidence necessary to make it possible to throw complete light on the situation.

Subsequently, the said directorate of labor legislation will arrange for the carrying out of all the inquiries that it may deem necessary to have all the details of the case. Once the investigation of the case is complete, the directorate will decree the disqualification of the graduate or contrariwise dismiss the request for same.

Now then, there are situations such as that of graduates who for very specific and justified reasons cannot perform their social service. Under circumstances of this nature the authorities will be notified and the graduates will have to perform their service once the original reasons for postponement no longer apply. They will also do so for a period of 3 years from the date they start their service. Furthermore--and this is very important--those graduates who have been disqualified in accordance with Article 15 of the Law of Social Service will be able to request at any point during their disqualification that the latter be lifted so that they may fulfill their obligation.

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CSO: 3010/2335

CONSTRUCTION OF HAVANA HOSPITAL DESCRIBED

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 13 Aug 82 pp 42-44

[Article by Frank Hechavarrai: "The Hospital in Downtown Havana"]

[Text] Like an impressive mass of steel and concrete one can see the graceful, modern structure where the Clinical-Surgical Hospital of Downtown Havana will be located. Visible from any section of the city, the new building is already complete from the civil engineering and physical viewpoints. What is lacking now is the completion or finalizing and installation of the thousands of pieces of equipment and technical apparatus which this hospital center will contain.

There are many people who, on walking by the handsome structure located where the "public welfare center" used to be at one time, are wondering what the hospital will be like inside, what its purpose will be. Thus, we overheard in the buses that this hospital will handle only surgical cases, that it will be a national hospital, or that it will be merely a center for transplants, and so on--all of this pure speculation.

For that reason BOHEMIA is pleased to present this short photographic feature story that can be used to answer some of the questions of our Havana residents.

A National Hospital

Dr Gomez Cabrera, director of the future hospital, kindly agreed to provide the information that we sought and we thus discovered that this center will be a national teaching hospital, that is, that advanced-level instruction will be proffered here, such as postgraduate training, residencies, and specialties that professionals in the medical field will pursue. The center will essentially be a clinical-surgical hospital and will offer 28 specialized services and 6 support services, all of them of a clinical or surgical nature. That is, this hospital will not have a pediatric or gynecological-obstetrical section but only highly qualified internal medicine sections.

What It Will Contain

The 24 floors which will be assigned for hospitalization will have 969 beds while the top floor--the 25th--will house the elevator motors and other

equipment. Of these 24 floors 19 are strictly for hospitalization where we saw autonomous wards while on five floors other services are located, namely, the polyclinic, the guard room, the technical areas, laboratories, intensive care units, operating rooms, the radiological service, and other auxiliary services. These five floors are the first ones immediately above the vestibule or principal entrance of the hospital.

Medical Installation.

As regards its medical installation, the hospital will have very modern technical facilities. On some floors cardiovascular surgery cases will be treated and they will include their own operating room. The burn unit floor will represent another specialized service. The other operating rooms will be on the fifth floor. In all, there will be 26 operating rooms including 2 in the guard room and 6 for endoscopic and minor surgery.

The hospital rooms will have two, three, and four beds. They will be air-conditioned and have indirect music piped in. To have a constant temperature setting throughout the building, the hospital will have four 650-ton turbo-generators each of which will allow the cooling of the entire center.

In the outpatient section the polyclinic contains 7,800 square meters of space which is thus the equivalent of a basic secondary hospital in the countryside. It will have 50 consulting rooms.

The region for which the hospital will provide ambulatory patient care (out-patient consulting rooms) will be principally the districts of downtown Havana and Old Havana, which have a population of some 315,000. But for emergency service, cases from any part of the national territory will be received, as is true of the specialized services which the center will have. When the latter is functioning at full capacity it is calculated that with the number of consulting rooms that it will have (50), it will be possible to provide care to 1,200 to 1,300 patients every day.

On the visit which we reporters of BOHEMIA paid to the hospital we were accompanied by distaff Dr Galego, who also told us that the operating rooms will include one for ophthalmology which will contain two very expensive surgical microscopes hooked up to the ceiling and to the operating table. All this electronic setup can be handled automatically with the feet by the operating surgeon.

Some Information on the Hospital's Characteristics

The hospital's floor space is around 75,000 square meters, which is nearly the equivalent of the Calixto Garcia hospital and the new San Cristobal hospital, by way of comparison.

An interesting detail of its construction is that the hospital has 44,000 square meters of tiled area calling for a total of 3.6 million glazed tiles. It also contains 17,000 square meters of marble, 30,000 square meters of limestone blocks, and 400 square meters of fine wood.

The only thing to do now is wait for the inauguration of this monumental hospital about to be completed. Even more so, for public health care for all citizens, which is the goal of our party and our revolutionary government.

PHOTO CAPTIONS

1. p. 42. Dr Gomez Cabrera provided interesting information to BOHEMIA.
2. p. 42. It is already possible to get a feeling of the size of this center in the enormous vestibule. It really gives the impression of a modern luxury hotel.
3. p. 43. Hundreds and hundreds of modern medical equipment units will be installed, such as these defibrillation units for the heart.
4. p. 43. This unit is not any old television set. Rather, its screen will display data which the specialist needs about the patient's heart.
5. p. 43. Distaff Dr Galego shows BOHEMIA's reporters one of the 26 operating rooms which the new hospital will have. The one shown will be dedicated to ophthalmology and will contain complex instrumentation.
6. p. 43. This nearby building will contain the four turbogenerators which will air-condition the entire hospital center.
7. p. 44. Good work, excellent finish, and good taste stand out in any part of this modern hospital center.
8. p. 44. View of one of the waiting rooms in the outpatient consultation section.
9. p. 44. The most sophisticated radiological equipment units will be installed in this new clinical-surgical hospital.
10. p. 44. No room will have more than four beds, such as this one manufactured in Cuba.

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CSO: 3010/2335

HEALTH MINISTER SAYS 2,692 MEDICAL PERSONNEL ARE ABROAD

Havana GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW in English 19 Sep 82 p 8

[Article by Joaquin Oramas]

[Text] ● CUBA'S INCREASING medical cooperation abroad reached this year the figure of 2692 internationalists practicing in 26 countries, according to a report made during the 1st Meeting of Heads of Cuban Medical Delegations Abroad, presided over by Sergio del Valle, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Cuba and minister of public health.

The medical delegations include doctors, dentists, nurses, intermediate-level technicians and other health workers.

Cuban medical personnel are currently working in Algeria, Iraq, Libya, the Democratic Saharawi Arab Republic, Democratic Yemen, Angola, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, Benin, São Tomé, Cape Verde, the Congo, Mali, Tanzania, Burundi, Mozambique, Seychelles, Uganda, Vietnam, Kampuchea, Laos, Nicaragua, Grenada and Guyana.

During the meeting held at the Ministry of Public Health (MINSAP), it was announced that a group was set up to supervise Cuban international cooperation on health, made up of former heads of medical brigades or contingents or selected members of delegations involved in fulfilling the fundamental tasks of the delegations. One such task includes the organization of a system to meet the needs of the relatives of the internationalist brigade members during their stay abroad.

The opening speech of the meeting was made by Abelardo Ramírez, deputy minister of public health, who said that one of the goals sought by MINSAP was to constantly improve the work of the Cuban medical delegations abroad.

Delegation heads discussed various topics dealing with the information to be supplied to brigade members concerning the health situation and other circumstances prevailing in the countries where they are to practice. It was reported that one project calls for the drafting of phonetic glossaries to help solve the difficulties caused by language barriers as they carry out their duties abroad.

They exchanged experiences on the emulation programs carried out by the internationalist health workers in the various countries. Among other things, questions concerning the methodology governing medical cooperation, statistical and scientific information and scientific and technical literature were also discussed.

In closing the meeting, Sergio del Valle underscored the importance attached to the work of Cuban medical delegations abroad and the experience they have gained. He said that Cuban medical cooperation with Algeria has been going on for the past 20 years.

He made an appeal to further improve the quality of the delegations' work in meeting their commitments and praised the holding of this meeting which, in his opinion, will lay the foundations for carrying out a vastly improved health work.

NEXT YEAR'S VENCEREMOS BRIGADE TO BE LARGEST YET

Havana GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW in English 19 Sep 82 p 8

[Article by Roger Ricardo Luis]

[Text]

● THE VENCEREMOS Brigade is going to organize its biggest contingent in recent years, scheduled to visit Cuba in April 1983. This decision was expressed at a press conference in Havana held at the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP) by Juan Vera, María Aguirre and Kenneth Jones, members of the National Committee of the Venceremos Brigade, and it constitutes a response to the aggressive and isolating policy of the U.S. government against the Cuban Revolution.

Since 1969, the Venceremos Brigade has operated as a forum for active solidarity with Cuba both within the United States and by organizing groups traveling to Cuba made up of students, workers and professionals. During their visit, these groups get to know the realities of life in Cuba and contribute with voluntary work to build the new society.

Two hundred U.S. citizens — the highest figure in recent years — will travel to Cuba in the 14th Brigade.

A number of these visitors will be members of ethnic minority groups living in the United States.

The three National Committee members said that their organization will ignore steps adopted by the Reagan administration to prevent U.S.

citizens from visiting Cuba. In this manner, they will express the U.S. people's determination to not be isolated from their neighbor and to keep up to date with the way Cuban society is evolving.

In commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the attack on the Moncada Garrison, the Venceremos Brigade is also planning a wide program of activities in different U.S. cities. The two main celebrations will take place on the East and West Coasts, and they will be joined by a number of progressive organizations, some of which have direct connections with the Brigade.

The National Committee has condemned the Symms Amendment passed by the U.S. Senate declaring it to be an aggravating element in the already explosive situation in Central America and the Caribbean which has been created by the aggressive policy of the Republican administration.

Finally, it was pointed out that solidarity with Cuba also means support for the other peoples fighting in this region. The enemy is the same for all and his warlike plans are strategically aimed at exterminating these nations' decision to determine their destiny.

CSO: 3200/3

BRIEFS

PERU'S VILLANUEVA PROTESTS 'BLOCKADE'--Armando Villanueva, secretary general of the Aprista Party of Peru, has called upon all Latin American nations to protest the extended blockade that has been imposed on Cuba, just as he did with regard to the British attack on the Malvinas Islands. Villanueva, who began a tour of several countries today, reiterated his party's opposition to the current Peruvian Government. He said that the 1968 coup led by Gen Juan Velasco Alvarado produced a change in the traditional role of the Peruvian armed forces, which, he said, respect the constitution and have no wish to return to the days of oppressive fascism. [Text] [PA252227 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Sep 82]

'GRANMA' HONORS GUATEMALAN LABOR PARTY--In today's edition, GRANMA, the official newspaper of the Communist Party of Cuba, carries an article on the Guatemalan Labor Party's struggle, guidance and sacrifice on behalf of the Guatemalan people. GRANMA says that, on its 33rd anniversary, the Guatemalan Labor Party also commemorates the brutal assassination of six of its leaders. GRANMA also mentions the Guatemalan Labor Party's determination to continue the Guatemalan revolutionary struggle. Meanwhile, Severo Aguirre, Cuban Communist Party Central Committee member, presided over a ceremony yesterday in Havana honoring the 10th anniversary of the assassination of Guatemalan Labor leader (Bernardo Alvarado Monzon) and his comrades in struggle. [Text] [PA282348 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Sep 82]

BLAS ROCA DECORATED WITH MEDAL--Armando Acosta Cordero, alternate member of Cuba's Communist Party [PCC] Politburo and national coordinator of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution [CDR], has decorated PCC Politburo member Blas Roca Calderio with the 28 September Medal in a ceremony held at the main offices of the CDR No 26, Playa Municipality, Havana City. Blas Roca said this high CDR award signifies a great honor because it implies he has maintained his guard high against the enemies of the revolution. [Text] [FL282106 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1807 GMT 28 Sep 82]

ECONOMIC OFFICIAL IN CANADA--Montreal--Jose Fernandez Cossio, vice president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, has concluded a visit to Canada, where he held talks with Canadian Finance Minister Marc Lalonde. The high-ranking Cuban official was received by Lalonde and discussed bilateral economic affairs in a constructive and friendly climate. [Text] [FL281510 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1400 GMT 28 Sep 82]

FINNISH BROADCASTING AGREEMENT--An exchange agreement between Cuba and Finland was signed today at the Cuban Institute of Radio and Television [ICRT] by Silvio Alvarez, vice president of the ICRT, and (Kaho Sobolane), director of Finnish radio. The agreement renews a similar document signed in 1975, with which the two countries began an exchange in radio and television broadcasting. [FL250150 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2024 GMT 24 Sep 82]

SOVIET FISHING OFFICIAL--Nikolay Kudryavtsev, first deputy minister of the USSR fishing industry, presided over a ceremony in Havana today commemorating the 20th anniversary of scientific and technical fishing cooperation between Cuba and the USSR. Jorge Fernandez Cuervo, Cuban fishing industry minister, represented Cuba at the ceremony. [FL250150 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Sep 82]

FOREIGN STUDENTS--Nueva Gerona.--About 12,000 children and adolescents from Nicaragua and at least ten African countries will study at 23 schools in the countryside on the Isle of Youth during the current school term. On the fifth anniversary of the founding of the internationalist schools by Fidel, young people from Angola, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Namibia, the Congo, Sao Tome and Principe, Guinea Bissau, South Africa, the Democratic Saharawi Arab Republic and Nicaragua will be studying in elementary schools and junior and senior high schools on the Isle of Youth. In addition, there will be 600 students from Democratic Yemen, of which 155 have already arrived. Students from other sister nations are also expected to arrive soon. This year, schools on the Isle of Youth have pledged to do better work, both qualitatively and quantitatively, in honor of the 30th anniversary of the historic attack on the Moncada Garrison on July 26, 1953. Enrollment in the internationalist schools will be up by slightly more than 2,000 over the previous year and there has been growth in all branches of education as well, except for technical and professional education, according to Edel Gonzalez, municipal director of education. [By Lucas Correoso Perez] [Text] [Havana GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW in English 19 Sep 82 p 8]

CSO: 3200/3

BRIEFS

MILITARY PROMOTION--Col Plutarco Lopez Barrionuevo has been promoted to the rank of general by executive decree signed by President Hurtado. [PA112311 Quito Voz de Los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 10 Sep 82]

AGREEMENT WITH HUNGARY--The National Chamber of Representatives has unanimously approved a consular agreement reached between Ecuador and Hungary on 18 November 1981. The International Affairs Committee recommended that the agreement be approved because it contains provisions in keeping with national legislation on the matter. [PA112311 Quito Voz de Los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 10 Sep 82]

VOLCANIC ACTIVITY--According to reports by the Charles Darwin scientific station, the Wolf Volcano on Santa Isabel Island of the Galapagos Archipelagos has been spewing lava and ashes since 19 August. The scientists report, however, that the eruption poses no threat to the species that live on the island. [PA112311 Quito Voz de Los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 10 Sep 82]

NEW NATIONAL POLICE COMMANDER--Government and Justice Minister Galo Garcia Feraud was present at the ceremony to appoint (Plutarco Lopez Barrionuevo) new commander general of the National Police. During the ceremony 13 captains were promoted to major and 13 lieutenants were promoted to captain. [PA120224 Quito Voz de Los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 11 Sep 82]

CSO: 3348/23

WARMTH, SOLIDARITY OF RELATIONS WITH CUBA PRAISED

St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 28 Aug 82 p 9

[Article by Anthony Sylvester]

[Text] ONE of the most striking aspects of being a Grenadian student in Cuba, is the warm revolutionary friendliness extended to us by the Cuban masses.

More than that, our Prime Minister is accepted with revolutionary warmth, and our delegations receive similar treatment.

If one examines the trade relations between the two countries, one would realize that they are all aimed at developing our weak and struggling nation.

To add to this, there are numerous examples of international solidarity, in concrete terms, with the Grenadian Revolution -- our international airport project, and the numerous Grenadians studying in Cuba are only a few examples of this.

What do the Cuban people enjoy about our Revolution? The reasons for this warmth are many, but are all centred around the complete understanding of our revolutionary process, based on the solid foundation of scientific Socialism.

The Cuban people have had 24 years of revolutionary justice and their concrete historical experience has taught them that any young revolution needs all types of assistance -- not assistance that will bring economic and political dependence, but instead true and genuine independence. If one looks around our country, one would realize that this type of assistance is indeed given to us by the government and people of Cuba.

In short, the Cuban people gets great enjoyment out of helping

develop any revolutionary process with a scientific base, and a serious vanguard. The process being developed in our country fits this description.

To add to this, the process in Grenada has many similarities to that of the Cuban experience. The Moncada attack in July 1953 can be compared with the True Blue Army Barracks attack of March 13, 1979; the campaign to wipe out, illiteracy

in both countries is similar, the attempts by United States imperialism to turn back the revolutionary process in both countries is also similar.

Apart from the objective similarities, there are the geographic close-

ness of both countries, and the cultural and historical similarities.

This does not mean that both processes are the same, because they are not, and every country has to develop its own process considering not only the basic guidelines of scientific socialism, but also the concrete situation that exists in that country.

This, the PRG and our revolutionary vanguard is doing, and by so doing, has commanded the respect and solidarity of the Cuban government, party and people.

This is what has created the base for the warmth between both peoples and consequently the enjoyment that the Cubans get from our Revolution.

CSO: 3298/006

CONTRACTORS FOR AIRPORT EQUIPMENT EXPECTED TO VISIT SOON

St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 1 Sep 82 p 3

[Article by Keith Jeremiah]

[Text] CONTRACTORS of the two firms that will supply the bulk of air control and similar technical equipment for the international airport project in Point Salines, are expected to arrive here shortly to do preparatory work for installing the equipment.

The firms, Plessey of Britain and Metex of Finland, have been placing orders for the equipment and finalising related technical designs for the project, since signing contract agreements with the IRG earlier this year, according to project engineer Ron Smith.

He disclosed that project manager Bob Evans and electronics engineer Garth George had visited both firms recently and inspected the equipment.

Meanwhile, actual work on the terminal building has started with the erection of large steel frames.

Foundations for the steel frames, which Bro. Smith said will enable the building to go up quicker, began soon after the official terminal ground-breaking ceremony in April.

From the outside, the terminal building will be looking like six separate compartments.

Bro. Smith said the main emphasis is on paving of the runway.

"Asphaltic concrete", used for paving, is being produced at the Ramon Quintana stone crushing and asphalt plant in Mt Hartman.

Paving of the entire runway should be completed between August and December next year, and it will be 12 inches thick.

Most of the heavy earth work, involving blasting and bulldozing, is also nearing completion, and much drainage work is in progress.

Workmen will skip the dredged part of the runway in the meantime to allow it to be fully shaped and compacted, according to Bro. Smith.

The section of the runway close to the Calliste Government School is now being prepared for paving instead.

CSO: 3298/006

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CRITICIZES AREA BANK LENDING POLICIES

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 13 Sep 82 p 3

[Text]

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada, Sunday, (CANA) — The Grenada Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) has expressed concern over the lending policies of the Barbados-based Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and its local counterpart the Grenada Development Bank (GDB).

It said in a statement that the CDB was a difficult financial institution with which to do business and added that a feature of some of its loans "is the assumption of exchange risk."

"This has serious connotations for borrowers, especially in the high risk area of agriculture, and discourages applications at both the local and regional levels," the Chamber said.

The GCCI said that these institutions should be geared to better serve the needs of the area for which purpose they were created.

The Chamber said that a "fresh look" should be taken at the lending criteria of the GDB, which was set up in 1976 to help accelerate the development of the local economy.

It said the private sector visualised the GDB as a lending institution created to stimulate investment in the productive sectors and as such its lending policies should be more flexible, imaginative and accommodating than commercial banks.

The Chamber, however, said that this unfortunately, was not the case, because the GDB's requirements and conditions to applicants seeking a small loan were "formidable and almost impossible to comply with."

The GDB, which was formed following the merger of the Grenada Agricultural and Industrial Development Corporation and the Grenada Agricultural Bank concentrates its activities mainly in agriculture, fisheries, tourism and tourism-related projects.

The Chamber suggested that efforts should be made to explore the possibility of securing funding on concessional terms or grants for infusion into the GDB for onlending at low interest rates and generally move favourable terms to augment or supplant high risk on venture capital.

SANITATION WORKERS STAGE SIT-IN OVER ISSUE OF BENEFITS

St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 28 Aug 82 p 1

[Text] Some 140 workers employed at the Sanitation Department of the Ministry of Health at Queen's Park took industrial action yesterday morning to back their demands for improved medical facilities and better working conditions.

Masons, solid waste disposal, street cleaning and sewage workers, represented by the Technical and Allied Workers Union (TAWU), began their sit-in yesterday, according to TAWU's first-vice-president, Chester Humphrey.

This was because of the Ministry's failure to honour an agreement reached some time ago with TAWU for uniforms, boots, face-masks, gloves, toilet accessories, regular medical check-ups, and proper shower and changing facilities, he said.

TAWU has been meeting the Ministry since March this year and has had "no less than four meetings in the last three months", he added.

A letter was sent to the Ministry last week, protesting the delay in implementing the areas agreed on, which should have been in force some two months ago. The letter, Humphrey said, pointed out that the Ministry could only hold itself responsible for any action taken by the workers.

The workers said they expected that things like soap, disinfectant, face masks, gloves and boots would have been quickly provided, but that the uniforms would have taken some time.

They were grieved over the fact that people were dumping garbage and dead animals on the compound and they have to tend to these without the proper protective facilities.

One worker pointed out that bags of cement were on the compound and a number of their workers are masons. If permitted, they said, proper bathroom facilities could be constructed.

Addressing the workers, Humphrey said the protest will last until the Ministry decides to "demonstrate good faith".

When contacted, a Ministry of Health Official said that the Union and the Ministry are still negotiating on a contract for the workers.

He said the Ministry could give no further information at this time until "we are quite clear about what prompted the strike."

CSO: 3298/006

BRIEFS

TV EQUIPMENT BREAKDOWNS--Television Free Grenada (TFG) has had to cut back on its programming for the next four weeks because of severe breakdowns in equipment, said TFG acting manager Cheryl Fletcher. The breakdowns have affected both recording and editing equipment at the station. This has severely hampered the staff's ability to cover news events, record programme and edit, together with completed shows. Replacement parts and new equipment are already on order and should arrive in 3-4 weeks. [Text] [St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 1 Sep 82 p 7]

CSO: 3298/006

PPP CENTRAL COMMITTEE HOLDS FIRST POST-CONGRESS MEETING

Georgetown MIRROR in English 5 Sep 82 p 1

[Text] The first meeting of the new Central Committee of the People's Progressive Party was held on August 28 following the 21st Congress. The Party yesterday issued the following press release on the meeting. The session dealt with a number of issues, including the election of Party officers and the Executive Committee. General Secretary Cheddi Jagan was re-elected unopposed. The other 8 members of the Secretariat were also re-elected unopposed. The Executive Committee was increased to 15 and now has three new members.

The Central Committee discussed a political report delivered by the General Secretary, in which, among other matters, he drew attention to the continuing back-sliding of the PNC regime and the ever-present pressures of the IMF-World Bank finance imperialists. The overall role of US imperialism was also put in context, with special relevance to Guyana and the threatened Caribbean.

The Central Committee expressed deep concern over the regime's reversals and resolved to do its utmost to mobilise the masses against it. The regime's retreat is having serious repercussion on the masses who are already experiencing growing poverty and who have been victims of large scale lay-offs. more such massive lay-offs are in the offing if the retreat is not halted.

Strong opposition was voiced by the Central Committee against the plans of the government to sell shares in the state sector, so as to raise money to pay off onerous foreign debts and meet local day-to-day expenses. The PPP leadership urged a mobilisation against denationalisation and partnership with imperialism.

The Central Committee noted the deep aggravation of the zones of conflict through the deliberate policy of the Reagan regime in Washington. US aggressive postures are surfacing in the Caribbean which must be made a zone of peace.

Deep anguish was expressed over the plight of the heroic Palestinians and the hope that the recent set-back will only be temporary on their hard road to a Palestinian Homeland in Palestine.

The Party denounced Ronald Reagan's war-mongering and hostile pronouncements which threaten world peace. The Central Committee agreed to set up a Committee charged with the responsibility of raising consciousness of the Guyanese people about the present aggravated world situation, the threat posed by the massive arms race to national and social liberation, development and jobs and bread, and the danger of a world war. The Party resolved to redouble its efforts to work assiduously towards winning peace.

In keeping with the Congress theme: /Strengthen the Party; Defend the Masses; Liberate Guyana/ [in boldface] the Central Committee appointed an Action Committee. Its function will be the formulation and implementation of a programme of action in fulfilment of the tasks set out by the 21st Congress for the final victory and liberation of the long-suffering Guyanese people.

CSO: 3298/007

PPP SEES SIGNS PNC IS SUCCUMBING TO CAPITALIST PRESSURE

Georgetown MIRROR in English 5 Sep 82 p 4

[Text]

WHILE spokesmen of the Guyana government and the ruling People's National Congress continue to spout socialist rhetoric, though to a lesser extent than before, the regime's overall programme indicates an inevitable recourse to capitalism.

In recent months imperialist agencies, especially the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, including the local private sector, have been exerting pressures on the regime to take an open capitalist path. The PNC, faced with a deep crisis, seems ready to succumb once international Monetary support, from any source, flows into the country to save it from total collapse.

According to an "Action Programme" prepared by the PNC regime for the World Bank after discussions with that body, the "government is determined to follow a pragmatic course, adapting and adjusting its programmes, policies and institutions in a manner which would ensure stability and accelerated growth of the economy."

The Programme, hardly given any serious attention by the

state media, is intended to "bring about changes in policy and institutional arrangements" seen in the context of "structural adjustments."

The more far-reaching effects of these changes include the "adjusting the mix of public and private sector activity" which will enable the public sector "to perform over a narrower range of activities." To this was added: "Given the decision to narrow the range of activities of the public sector, the government does not intend to start any new operations." In effect this means the scaling down of the operations of the present public sector and a halt to further nationalisation.

Because of the bankrupt state of the public corporations the government's Budget statement this year noted that it would not "indefinitely carry deficit public sector corporations which are of a commercial type." Within this framework, the statement to the World Bank said the "public sector entities will provide for appropriate involvement of well-established enterprises, both foreign and local, and wherever deemed desirable the government will permit equity participation by such foreign and local enterprises."

Though not clearly giving the impression of denationalisation, it is stated that "in pursuance of the programme for consolidating the public sector the government has targeted enterprises for private participation... will offer participation, which in particular cases may be majority, to the local and foreign sectors."

Among the enterprises targeted for the time being for private participation are the Guyana Timbers Limited, Guyana Fisheries Corporation, Glassworks Ltd, Guyana Stockfeeds Ltd, and the Guyana Pharmaceutical Corp. Private investors are being given the leeway for possible investment in the manufacturing sector. Also the World Bank is to "revise, clarify and amplify the Guyana Investment Code to give the necessary assurances to private investors."

Under this new scheme the regime is begging for the "lifting immediately and substantially the current debt burden for a period of about 2 to 3 years and spreading it out over a further 7 to 10 year period." The govt. is also calling for an "adequate flow of inputs, the "continuous flow of drugs", and "capital inflow support for private investors, local and foreign, to participate in the production for export drive."

These 'guarantees' by the regime seems to be reaping fruits with several private foreign firms already in Guyana attached to the various corporations. Provisions are also being made for these investors to sit on the governing boards of these Corporations.

The People's Progressive Party, at its recently-concluded 21st Congress, decided to 'resist de-nationalisation in any form, and advocated a trisectional economy which will include the private sector but the state and co-operative sector will become dominant.'

The Central Committee Report adopted at the Congress said socialism has not failed nor has it been ever tried in Guyana despite the boasts of the PNC. It pointed out that capitalism cannot solve the problems of the country. "No third world country which has taken this path has achieved genuine independence and social progress. It would be puerile to think at this time of a deep and on-going crisis of world capitalism that any country tied to it would be saved from its scourges of inflation, unemployment and poverty," said the Report.

The PPP advocates at this juncture of Guyana's history a programme of democracy, anti-imperialism and socialist-orientation to take Guyana out of its present nightmare.

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CSO: 3298/007

SOCIOECONOMIC SITUATION OF COUNTRY'S CHILDREN

Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 10 Sep 82 pp 20-23

[Article by Maria Luisa Castellanos de Membreno: "Misfortune, Neglect Affect Them"]

[Text] The socioeconomic situation of the children in Honduras has been analyzed several times at the national and international level. The conclusion is that it is a deplorable situation in general without any real progress.

The majority of the families in Honduras live at subsistence level and the children are the main victims in that situation.

Studies by EDENH [National Demographic Survey of Honduras] and by the Ministry of Public Health have led to the conclusion that 70 percent of the children of this country suffer from some degree of malnutrition. About 86 percent of the peasant population consumes 1,465 calories and 33 grams of protein a day. That is far from the necessary amount of between 2,000 and 2,500 calories and 50 to 70 grams of protein as an indispensable daily minimum for an adequate diet, according to INCAP [Nutrition Institute of Central America and Panama].

From birth, the children of Honduras are victims of a socioeconomic situation of extreme poverty. We find children in our country who at 4 months of age begin to show weight and height deficiencies. Malnutrition from their very first days results in retardation in mental development.

That is compatible with the epidemiological evidence that indicates a drastic decrease in protein consumption immediately after the mother stops breastfeeding the child. That is when the basic diet rich in carbohydrates and very poor in protein of high nutritional value begins.

It has been verified that protein intake does not improve during preschool age and retardation in development is never made up. Rather, it is aggravated in the critical period of rapid growth.

Disadvantage for Rural Children

The risk of malnutrition threatens rural children before birth because the peasant mothers become pregnant while suffering from malnutrition which becomes worse during the pregnancy.

Surveys by the Preventive Medicine Department of UNAH [National Autonomous University of Honduras] have demonstrated that the high percentage of children in Honduras with low birth weights is directly related to the low economic level of the inhabitants in rural and urban areas.

INCAP has demonstrated that infant mortality is up to 40 times higher in children weighing 2,500 grams or less than in those weighing at least 2,500 grams at birth. Differences have been found in children from cities and villages or hamlets where they do not even have the minimal conditions necessary for a moderately decent life.

Unjust Income Distribution

One of the major socioeconomic problems of the people in Honduras is the unjust income distribution. For the period 1970-72, the average per-capita income for the entire country was estimated at 506 lempiras, the lowest in Central America and one of the three lowest on the American continent.

This income included rural and urban sectors. For peasants alone, the per-capita income was about 80 lempiras per year or 21 centavos per day.

About 79.7 percent of the Honduran families is in the lower stratum and receives less than 2,000 lempiras per year. Some 44.7 percent receives less than 500 lempiras each year while 35 percent receives between 500 and 2,000 lempiras.

About 17.2 percent of the families is in the middle stratum and receives between 2,000 and 7,000 lempiras per year. Only 3.1 percent of the families is in the upper stratum and receives more than 7,000 lempiras per year. The conclusion is that income distribution in Honduras could not be more cruel and unjust since a large number of families--44.7 percent of the total in the country--receives only 8.8 percent of the income. On the other hand, a minority of families--3.1 percent of the total--receives 27.2 percent.

These inequalities in income distribution hide even more distressing realities since, within the lower stratum of 2,000 lempiras or less per family, there is a substratum with worse income conditions: 44.7 percent of the total population of the country has incomes of 500 lempiras or less per family per year. This is equivalent to 59 lempiras per person per year or 16 centavos per person per day.

According to studies by CONSUPLANE [Higher Council for Economic Planning in 1976, this situation includes 1,091,460 people who live under what are considered infra-human conditions. Based on the fact that the population grows at an average geometric rate of 3.5 percent per year, we can reach the conclusion that the

percentage of Hondurans living under inhuman conditions is greater now than in 1976.

Employment of the Honduran

About 30 percent of the Honduran population is considered economically active. In other words, more than two people depend on each one who works. Of this labor force, 57 percent is concentrated in the primary sector of agriculture. About 18 percent is in the secondary sector. Of this percentage, 60 percent works in factories and 25 percent in the service sector. About 87 percent of the working people are men and 50 percent are between 10 and 29 years of age. There is a fairly large proportion of workers from 10 to 14 years old. This reality places our country in a very unfortunate situation since, at that age, the youths should be preparing themselves to improve their productive ability.

Unemployment reaches chilling numbers in Honduras. It is 11 percent in the cities, according to official statistics. In the rural sector, it reaches 70 percent, counting unemployment and underemployment.

When we discussed this aspect with sociologist Rafael del Cid, a professor at UNAH, he stated: "The problem of unemployment and underemployment in Honduras is closely related to the degree of underdevelopment in which we live which has its roots in the model of socioeconomic organization in the country."

He added: "The Hondurans know that more than 300,000 peasant families in Honduras do not have land and 150,000 families have so little that it is as if they did not have any. This entire situation must directly affect the children of Honduras with what, without exaggeration, we can define as neglect."

Professor del Cid revealed: "In Honduras there is a direct relationship between the well-being of the family and the lack of work or the means to permit permanent work--in this case, land. Consequently, as long as the problem of lack of land and unemployment is not solved, the precarious situation of children will continue to be serious in Honduras. Even if the problem of land ownership were solved, there would have to be another great task--educational work." He emphasized: "It is necessary to teach the parents to educate their children, to awaken the talents of their children and to guide their vocation to stimulate them."

According to the sociologist, there are no organizations in Honduras that are devoted to guiding the parents in educating their children. Consequently, it is very common to find authoritarian fathers in our country who abuse their children daily, causing psychological deformities in addition to the deformities that malnutrition has caused.

Other Aspects

In addition to the above-mentioned aspects, many others make the children of Honduras very unfortunate. They are far from being privileged as national and international laws indicate.

Infant mortality in our country is among the highest in Latin America. Children in Honduras die every day from diarrheic diseases, bacillary dysentery, nonspecific pneumonia, bronchopneumonia, symptomatic heart disease, measles, whooping cough, tetanus and other infections that, when detected, are not controlled.

Another aspect that reflects the misfortune of the children in Honduras is begging. No study has been made yet to supply exact figures on the number of beggar children in the country. However, by merely touring the streets of the main cities like Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula and Choluteca, we can see that the number of beggar children is increasing in giant steps. These are children who, at the age they should be cared for by adults, must beg for money to help their mothers and their younger siblings eat and survive.

State and Private Institutions

There are several state and private organizations in Honduras that devote effort to the children's problems.

We can cite PANI [National Children's Foundation], the National Social Welfare Board and the SOS Villages, organizations created to help neglected children.

There are 10 nurseries in Honduras for the children of workers, laborers, domestic employees or tenant farmers. They are open from 7 in the morning until 6 in the evening from Monday to Friday and from 7 am until 1 pm on Saturdays.

These nurseries are under the National Social Welfare Board and the municipality of San Pedro Sula.

The personnel in charge of each one of these nurseries has received appropriate training. They include an administrator, several teachers, a doctor, a nurse, a social worker, several nursemaids and service personnel. However, it is true that the number of nursemaids in each of these nurseries is lower than the number they should have based on the number of children. Each nursemaid takes care of 15 to 20 children.

Services are projected to the family with educational work on hygiene, nutrition, cooperation with the service and its social function.

Next to the Mercado San Isidro nursery in Tegucigalpa, there is a school for nursemaids where youths who have finished primary school are trained.

In Tegucigalpa there is a temporary home to help children from birth to 12 years of age and adult women with few economic resources. There are orphanages that care for children from 3 to 7 years old, children of women who--for reasons of work or circumstances beyond their control--cannot take care of them. The children in these centers receive lodging, food, medical care, religious guidance, preschool education and medicine.

There is a private boarding school in San Pedro Sula where orphan girls without relatives that can help them are cared for. This service is provided for girls from 2 to 7 years of age. It provides preschool and primary education and is financed and supervised by the Ministry of Education.

SOS Villages

The Friends to Children Society, SOS Villages, offers orphaned or neglected children a substitute home that is similar to a normal home.

The children are placed together in groups of 8 to 10 like brothers or sisters of different ages under the care of a surrogate mother and another woman who acts as an aunt. Both must meet certain requirements. The mothers and aunts must be between 18 and 25 years of age. They must show that they have a vocation to care for children. Each village has a director who acts as father to the children.

The SOS Villages consist of 20 to 40 houses located within communities which, in appearance, are the same as the other houses.

The children receive all the required care suitable to their age: medical care, clothing, food, education, moral and religious guidance. There are villages in Tegucigalpa, El Zamorano, Choluteca, Choloma, Tela and La Ceiba.

The Friends to Children Society also sponsors a project to help single mothers who have been abandoned with small children.

The principal source of income for the Friends to Children Society is sponsorship. Each sponsor finances part of the child's stay in the home. Many are from countries outside Honduras; that is, the aid comes from abroad.

The National Social Welfare Board contributes an annual amount for the maintenance of the SOS Villages.

Kindergartens

There are 163 kindergartens in Honduras, 109 public and 54 private. The main objective of this service is to promote the development of skills and sociability in children through free activity, directed recreation and experience concerning the world that surrounds them.

In general, the state kindergartens function in improvised sites which are inadequate since they lack lighting and ventilation and are too small considering the number of children who attend. Some have appropriate furniture, equipment and educational material in good condition. However, in others they are inappropriate, rustic and damaged.

In general, there is not enough educational material and almost everything used is improvised by the teachers. They devise it using match boxes, toothpicks, cardboard, cans, foil, pieces of wood, seashells, sand, etc. There are many needs to fill here, especially in the public kindergartens, since

the budget for these services does not cover the purchase of educational material.

Children's Dining Rooms

There are 45 children's dining rooms in Honduras, 37 public and 8 private. Some of the public dining rooms are inside community centers so the technical personnel do not spend much time on the operations of the dining rooms. The work they do is routine since it is limited to serving food at the indicated time. It has been verified that the especially prepared menus available are rarely used but the food they provide is adequate.

Other Services

There are eight SERN [Nutritional Recovery Services] in Honduras. They operate within the Health Centers.

Their objective is to help children from 1 to 5 years of age who are suffering from malnutrition. The children remain in the center from 7 in the morning until 5 in the afternoon. They receive the necessary food and care.

The Mother-Child Hospital in Tegucigalpa takes care of children from birth to 14 years of age and women with gynecological or obstetric problems if they are not beneficiaries of the Honduran Social Security Institute. It has outpatient, emergency and convalescent services, an equipment center, pharmacy, X-ray, clinical analyses laboratory, a milk bank and a blood bank.

For children with physical and mental problems, there is a school for the blind and the Institute of Rehabilitation for the Handicapped in Tegucigalpa as well as special education schools. There is also one in San Pedro Sula. There are public and private centers but there are not enough of these centers for special children for the large number of this type of less fortunate child in Honduras.

Palliative Function

We talked with sociologist Rafael del Cid about the activities of these government and private institutions in Honduras that devote the major part of their time to watching over the situation of the children without managing to eliminate the enormous problems that afflict children in the country. He told us that he is sure that all these institutions are not ignorant of the fact that their work is mainly palliative since they do not attack the causes of the problem. He emphasized: "However, they cannot go out of existence since it is necessary to do something."

He added: "The anguish of anyone who studies this problem as well as all those who work in those institutions comes from not knowing the way to completely solve the problem. They simply have to settle for denouncing it."

Professor del Cid stated that the personnel that works in those organizations has full knowledge that it is necessary to do something until the time comes

to attack the problem at its roots. Therefore, it is necessary to formulate provisional alternatives with immediate effects.

We asked: "Where to begin?" He answered: "A good beginning could be to allocate a larger budget at the state level to programs directed toward child welfare with the objective of increasing aid to the neediest families, to guide parents in educating their children and to increase the number of children's dining rooms, orphanages and schools since there are not enough now for the number of children in the country."

He continued: "That would mean sacrificing a number of sectors in the national budget devoted to activities of questionable social benefit."

Another possibility that the sociologist presented is that private enterprises could allocate part of their funds to help child care centers or even provide child care for the children of their own workers. He emphasized: "This could be a mechanism through which businessmen could share part of their well-being with the neediest, especially with the group that represents the future of Honduras."

When we asked Professor del Cid what the UNAH sociology department has done until now to help solve the problems of the children in this country, he answered that the university does not have any specific program devoted to children in Honduras.

He stressed: "The university has been too involved with itself and has not analyzed the problems of children in Honduras." He added: "Its projection abroad is slight. When it has occasionally identified itself with the problems of the country, it has only denounced them and not given real alternatives or solutions or been involved in activities related to those alternatives."

The sociologist recognized that the university has human resources to help children's problems since it has doctors, social workers, lawyers, sociologists and psychologists. Without needing pompous programs where it is necessary to invest a large amount of money, they constitute a valuable human resource that could be well used to help the unfortunate situation of the majority of the children in Honduras.

Based on this superficial but true analysis of the present situation of children in Honduras, it is necessary that we reflect on the real situation of children on this Day of the Child. The government as well as private institutions that have devoted their time to them must begin to eliminate the problem in order to physically and culturally strengthen the children who, as the men of tomorrow, will direct the future of our country.

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CSO: 3010/2371

BRIEFS

THREE DEAD IN EARTHQUAKES--Tegucigalpa, 29 Sep (AFP)--A rash of quakes that lasted 17 hours in Honduras left three people dead in Cores and destroyed an undetermined number of homes in Dolores Merendon, 260 km west of Tegucigalpa, it was reported today. The tremors, which were recorded by the Geology Department of the National University of Honduras, began at 1915 on Tuesday and stopped at 1235 today. Their magnitude was not determined. The residents of Dolores Merendon have gathered at the public square [words indistinct] because they fear being buried under the rubble of their homes if the earthquakes resume. No fatalities have been reported in this town but two persons were slightly injured while rushing out of their homes. In Cores, however, three persons were crushed to death when their modest homes collapsed. The victims have asked the government for tents and medicines, which are expected to arrive in a few hours. The tremors, which were felt only slightly in Tegucigalpa, caused some landslides on the road between Santa Rosa de Copan and Ocotepeque, in Honduras' western region. [Text] [PA301600 Paris AFP in Spanish 2207 GMT 29 Sep 82]

HUMAN RIGHTS MEETING DELEGATE--Dr Ramon Custodio Lopez, president of the Honduran Human Rights Commission, travelled to Mexico 11 September to participate in an important meeting of the Central American and Caribbean human rights group. [PA271411 San Pedro SULA TIEMPO in Spanish 13 Sep 82]

CSO: 3248/28

CRACKDOWN ON IMPORTS BY CUSTOMS BRINGS INCREASED REVENUES

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 2 Sep 82 pp 1, 2

[Text]

A DRAMATIC INCREASE in Customs revenue since July, as a result of stricter enforcement of regulations and vigilance by Customs officers under the new regime for reducing the incidence of illicit imports and uncustomed goods has been reported by Prime Minister Edward Seaga.

A news release from Jamaica House yesterday, said that the amount of revenue collected by Customs officers from April 1 to July 31, 1982 was \$33.3 million, as compared with \$26.4 million for the period April 1 to July 31, 1981. This represents an increase of \$6.9 million.

Figures for July when the new regime took effect show that a total of \$10.2 million was collected as against \$6.8 million collected in July 1981 — an increase of \$3.4 million. In June 1982, \$8.6 million was collected, as compared with \$6.1 million in June 1981 — an increase of \$2.5 million.

"This significant improvement in Customs collection is attributable to the new procedures and enforcement methods and it is expected that the trend will continue," the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister has also announced that, beginning yesterday, a new service is being provided to assist passengers arriving at the two international airports.

Persons who have been trained as special Customs Aides will be on hand to help passengers in Customs matters, including assistance in complying with declaration requirement, so as to speed up their movement through the Customs halls. There will be three Customs Aides on duty at the airports at all times.

In a statement to the House of Representatives on July 28, the Prime Minister had announced special measures to be taken to deal with the illicit importation of goods, details of which were outlined in Ministry Paper No. 22 which was laid on the Table of the House.

These measures included the early addition of a new container stripping station at the Bonded Warehouse No. 163 at Port Royal Street, to augment the

one already functioning at Port Bustamante. This new station has been in operation since August 10, allowing an average of ten containers to be stripped each day.

"This is a fore-runner of the major container stripping complex to be established at Newport West by the end of the 1982/1983 financial year, which will be capable of handling a minimum of 60 containers a day," yesterday's Jamaica House news release said.

Preparations are also now well under way for storage of cargo at the Queen's Warehouse, at Norman Manley International Airport, with special steel containers being constructed in anticipation of new arrangements for the control and delivery of air cargo which will come into effect on October.

CSO: 3298/008

CUBAN COMMUNITY LEADER VOICES OPPOSITION TO DEPORTATIONS

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 22 Aug 82 p 14

[Article by Hall Estrada, president of the Cuban community in a letter to the editor]

[Text]

On the 14th. of this month your newspaper published an article entitled **Send Home the Cubans** written by Vincent Tulloch. Mr. Tulloch argues that the Cubans who arrived on July 2 of the current year should be deported just as the Haitians who had arrived last year through Annotto Bay had been deported.

He urges the Jamaican Government to issue a statement on the status of the Cubans since in his opinion there is no difference between a Cuban and a Haitian. Lastly he insinuates that the Cubans in Jamaica may give rise to an increase in delinquency as was the case in Florida due to the Mariel event in 1980.

In regards to the deportation of the Haitians last year it is not in my power to judge. I was then in Cuba and, furthermore as a foreigner -- although my mother was Jamaican -- I do not consider myself having the right to issue an opinion on such a sensitive Government affair.

However, regarding the Cubans I am very much surprised that a journalist should write in such a hasty manner and seemingly with so little information on the migration scourge suffered by Cuba since 1959. Cuba being the country which enjoyed the highest economic standard in all the Caribbean and where the breath of freedom pervaded all homes, despite political instability which has been a feature of that island throughout her history.

It seems to me that Mr. Tulloch be given information which any person concerned with the matter could easily

obtain if he tries because the Government of Jamaica has not kept it hidden. On February 9 of the current year a Cuban sailor aboard a Cuban ship flying the Panamanian flag remained in Jamaica because of political reasons, not economic ones, since his salary as a sailor was quite high.

A short time after, on April 1, three young Cubans arrived in Montego Bay and declared that they would rather die than return because they had to suffer the Government of Castro and as a logical consequence they were anti-communists. And of the 29 Cubans, not 27 as Mr. Tulloch says, who arrived on July 2 also through Montego Bay, and asked that they be allowed to remain, seven suffered imprisonment in Cuba for political reasons. The documents proving this are in my possession.

Shouldn't equate

After all the above mentioned facts it appears impossible to me, that anyone should equate these Cuban refugees with the Haitian refugees, for it is well known to all that the Haitian migrates because of hunger and poverty and, the Cuban because of repression and lack of freedom.

In regards to Mariel, let me remind

Mr. Tulloch that this happened with the approval of President Jimmy Carter who stated that he was receiving the Cubans with wide open heart and arms, despite the fact that Fidel Castro was already active sending common prisoners over to the United States of America via Mariel, the result of which has been the rise in the delinquency rate in Florida.

But, whoever uses this argument against the Cubans two years after this event took place and which has been so extensively studied by many sociologists, is playing the game of the Havana Government, for the concern of the Cuban Communist clique has always been to try and disgrace the Cuban political exile, who before Mariel, was so highly respected in the United States of America, for his hard working character and for having helped in making Miami in just 20 years, one of the most important cities in that country.

We, the members of the Cuban Community in Jamaica, are not concerned with the status which the Government of Jamaica may grant to these Cubans. We, who are truly aware of the pain of the Cuban people, have only one interest: that they do not return to Cuba, because among other things, we know that prison is awaiting them there.

It has happened before. Two Cubans, Bienvenido Reyes-Tornes and Cristobal Mecias — Rodriguez, managed, in 1970, to leave Cuba illegally with their families, they arrived in Grand Cayman and were granted asylum. By deceitful means they were kidnapped by the Cuban authorities and taken back to Cuba where they served terms in prison one of Reyes-Tornes sons was later murdered while in the Compulsory Military Service. For this and many other untold reasons our interest is only one: that they do not return.

Mr. Tulloch insinuates that the Cubans might cause a rise in delinquency in Jamaica. As a sad fortune-teller he predicts a Mariel for this island.

I deem it necessary to remind Mr. Tulloch — that delinquency is not native to Cuba. That these persons do not determine whether Mr. Fidel Castro may decide to unleash a Mariel against Jamaica. That if this should happen the Government of Jamaica would very well know what to do to solve the situation as it proved last year when Cuba refused to return the Jamaican criminals. That it is logical that Jamaica's National Security should undertake to investigate these Cubans before making official statements and, this calls for time. That it should be borne in mind that here in Jamaica there is a Cuban Community, officially known since last year, to which Mr. Tulloch's statements are offensive.

I remind Mr. Tulloch that not one single crime has been committed by any Cuban which the Government has allowed to enter this country in the post-Mariel migration. That the Cubans in Jamaica are a source of income for this nation, because the Cubans are living with the money sent to them through the efforts and sacrifices made by their relatives in the U.S.A. by working over-time, selling their properties, mortgaging them, etc. That the Cubans in Jamaica are resolved, despite the wants they might have to bear, to maintain the position they have kept in the year they have been here. That of anti-communist and decent persons.

Finally I invite Mr. Tulloch to visit the Cuban homes in Jamaica, to which he will be welcomed in spite of his statements, because all Cubans are aware that only ignorance of what Cuba is today can move a person to express himself in that manner.

MANLEY OUTLINES POLICY ON COMMUNISTS AS PNP PARLEY OPENS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 16 Sep 82 pp 1, 11

[Text]

THE PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY did not invite representatives of the Workers Party of Jamaica or the Communist Party of Jamaica to its 44th annual conference which opens today at the National Arena, because "the P.N.P. deals resolutely with all local organisations which compete for state power," Party president and Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Michael Manley, said yesterday.

Mr. Manley was answering a question as to whether the W.P.J. or the C.P.J. had been invited to the P.N.P. conference.

Speaking at a press briefing on the conference, at his home, 2A Washington Close, St. Andrew, Mr. Manley said: "We deal resolutely with the J.L.P. and the W.P.J., which compete for state power. We believe we are the proper repositories of state power, to the exclusion of all others, with no coalition with any other, and no co-operation on state power with any other."

Mr. Manley said that the Party was glad if any of these organisations, at any time, agreed with any position by the P.N.P. on any issue. However, the P.N.P. did not intend to compromise.

INSTANCING THE AREA of non-alignment, where he said there was a disagreement by these organisations with the P.N.P.'s position, Mr. Manley reaffirmed the Party's commitment to non-alignment which he said originated on

November 7, 1964, when his father announced the party's Democratic Socialist philosophy.

Noting that representatives of the Communist parties in Cuba and the U.S.S.R. were among overseas organisations invited to the conference, Mr. Manley said that the P.N.P. was making a distinction between these organisations and local ones which competed for state power.

The P.N.P., he said, wanted relations with a wide range of progressive parties in the world and it was quite logical to have issued those invitations.

Commenting also on the invitation of Mr. Richard Hatcher, Vice-Chairman of the Democratic Party of the United States of America, who will address the public session of the conference tomorrow night, Mr. Manley said the P.N.P. wanted good relations with the United States of America.

There was in that country's political system elements which look in a friendly manner at Third World problems and elements which did not, he said; adding that the P.N.P. did not share any affinity with the latter category.

It will be the first time that a representative of either of the major political parties in the U.S.A. will be addressing a local party conference, he said.

Mr. Manley reiterated that the P.N.P. was not a communist party and did not want communists in its ranks.

Some 1,500 delegates are expected to participate in the conference which ends on Sunday with the major public session.

SIX JLP COUNCILLORS FROM ST JAMES TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 15 Sep 82 p 1

[Text]

SIX COUNCILLORS of the St. James Parish Council - all members of the Jamaica Labour Party - who in June of this year submitted to the Council a resolution calling for the removal of Montego Bay's Mayor Shalman Scott as Chairman of the Council have been suspended for three months from the J.L.P. by the Party's Standing Committee.

Suspended are: Deputy Mayor Princess Vernon, of the Spring Mount Division; Councillors Danny Malcolm, Montego Bay North West; Merton Cooke, Spring Garden; Jonathan Dunstan, Maroon Town; Edwin Nelson, Welcome Hall; and Glaisten Duhaney, Montego Bay South Eastern.

A seventh Councillor, Delbert Christie, also of the Montego Bay Southern Division, who had also signed the resolution, was reprimanded following proof that when he signed the resolution he thought it was for submission to the Party's Executive and not to the Council.

The suspension of the six Councillors will not interfere with the voting strength or administration of the 37-all J.L.P. Council; but it will debar them from all Party activities and also suspends permission for them to say or do anything in the name of the Party.

There had been rumours of "in-fighting" and "bad blood" among the members of the Council prior to May this year. There were also denials that these conditions existed, until early June when a caucus of some J.L.P. Councillors held at the Mount Alvernia High School decided to call for a "no-confidence" vote in Mayor Scott.

Such a resolution was tabled at the Parish Council meeting in June. The matter was reported to the J.L.P.'s Central Executive Committee which forwarded it to the

Party's Disciplinary Committee. The Disciplinary Committee considered the matter at its meeting held on Monday, August 23, and recommended to the Standing Committee that the "rebel" Councillors should be suspended.

A statement issued yesterday by the Party's General Secretary, Senator Bruce Golding, Minister of Construction, said: "The decision to suspend the six Councillors was taken by the Party's Standing Committee after considering a report of the Disciplinary Committee to which the matter had been referred. A seventh Councillor who also signed the resolution, Councillor Delbert Christie of the Montego Bay Southern Division, was not included in the list of suspended Councillors but was issued with a strong reprimand."

The Gleaner understands that the Standing Committee's action is intended to bring to the attention of Party members, of whatever standing, that matters of the kind should be referred to the Party's Executive for consideration and not be made an issue of public debate and controversy.

BRIEFS

ALUMINA, BAUXITE EXPORTS--Bauxite and aluminum exports declined significantly during the first half of the calendar year 1982 compared with the same period in 1981, the Jamaica Bauxite Institute said in a news release yesterday. Crude bauxite exports, including the sale to the U.S. Government stockpile, amounted to 2,355,189 dry tonnes, a fall of 20.9 per cent from the 1981 figure of 2,976,361 dry tonnes. Alumina exports totalled 880,942 tonnes, 31.6 per cent less than the 1981 figure of 1,287,011 tonnes. Total bauxite exports (i.e. crude bauxite plus the bauxite equivalent of alumina exported) fell 26.7 per cent from 6,160,704 dry tonnes in the 1981 period to 4,515,132 dry tonnes this year. Current expectations are that total bauxite exports, discounting additional sales to the U.S. stockpile, should amount to about 9 million tonnes, a 224.4 per cent fall from the 1981 export level of 11.6 million tonnes, the JBI said. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 6 Aug 82 p 14]

GOVERNMENT INVESTMENTS--The latest figures on Government's investment thrust show 69 projects in production with a capital investment of \$106.2 million. According to the Jamaica National Investment Promotions Limited yesterday, there are 24 other projects in finalised stage awaiting implementation with a projected capital investment of \$107 million. Of the projects in production, 42 involve the manufacturing sector producing garments, furniture, office and school equipment and marble ware among other items. This represents over \$42.6 million in investment. In agriculture some 20 projects are underway costing \$54.7 million in capital investment. Three projects are in production in the tourism sector representing \$4.5 million while four other projects costing \$4.3 million exist in other areas. These projects are located throughout the island and include the plastics manufacturing plant at Naggo Head, St. Catherine, and the Ceramic factory at Linstead. A spokesman for JNIP said that while all investments were not channelled through his office they were being monitored by the JNIP. The projects under production employ more than 1,000 workers. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 6 Aug 82 p 14]

CSO: 3298/008

CLANDESTINE STATION CRITICIZES PEOPLE'S CHURCH

PA301628 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0000 GMT 29 Sep 82

[Text] The People's Church is not a church and does not have the people's support. The most recent organization founded by the traitorous collective is the ill-named People's Church, whose aim is to hide the true mission of the Catholic Church by creating an environment of tension between the real Christians and the Christians who, contrary to their beliefs, support the Marxist-Leninist ideology of the nine traitors.

The organizer of this new church directorate is no less than Monsignor Arias Caldera. He, along with Ernesto and Fernando Cardenal, Uriel Molina, Edgar Parrales and D'Escoto Brockman "the traveller," is nothing more than a communist who plays the role of priest.

All such organizations are instruments that favor the new dictatorship, mechanisms established by the nine to return to the Somoza past when our people were oppressed through similar organizations. There can be no revolutionary progress because these organizations repress the people instead of defending them. There can be no revolutionary progress if these organizations continue hiding a truth that the world and the Nicaraguan people already know. There can be no revolution in a country where the minds of youths are conditioned to the defense of the party. There can be no revolution in a country where newsmen are accomplices of a deception which no one wants to report. There can be no revolution in a country where the state exploits the people.

We issue a call to the heroic members of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] and to our self-sacrificing militiamen so that they will join us to overthrow the new dictatorship. Together, in one united front, let us find Sandino's truth. Let us go forward and, as Sandino in the past, expell the last foreign invader from our homeland. Brothers of the EPS, brother militiamen let us fight together to achieve Sandino's ideals.

CSO: 3248/30

BRIEFS

SOVIET SHIP--Corinto--The Soviet ship "Aleksantrovsk" arrived 12 September in the port of Corinto with 5,300 tons of corn donated by the peoples and government of Argentina for the peoples and government of Nicaragua. The transportation of the grain on the Soviet ship demonstrates the solidarity of the USSR with the needs of the Nicaraguan people. [PA271405 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 13 Sep 82 pp 1, 6]

GDR UNIVERSITY COOPERATION--Managua, 21 Sep (ACAN-EFE)--Gerhard Engel, GDR deputy education minister who is visiting this country, will sign a cooperation agreement between the Wilhelm Pieck University of Rostock, GDR, and Nicaragua. The official announced that educational equipment for high schools of Nicaragua worth 1 million cordobas (\$100,000) have been donated by the peoples of the GDR. The cooperation agreement contemplates sending to Nicaragua experts in physiology, medicine, history, and physics. [Text] [PA271405 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0203 GMT 22 Sep 82]

DOMESTIC TRADE OFFICIALS--The Domestic Trade Ministry has just announced the appointment of Freddy Hernandez as official in charge of region No 5 which includes Boaco, Chontales, Rama and Nueva Guinea [as published] departments and Julio Marengo as official in charge of Masaya, Carazo Granada and Rivas departments. [PA272206 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 15 Sep 82 p 5]

SOVIET MEDICINE DONATION--Chinandega--Yesterday Yuriy Koval, director of the Soviet-Nicaraguan Friendship Hospital, reported a new Soviet donation for this hospital. It consists of 25 tons of medicines which arrived aboard two planes on Sunday. It is estimated that the medicines are worth \$3 million and will be enough to cover the needs of the next 4 months. The 800 patients at this hospital are being treated by 33 doctors and 105 technicians, all of them from the USSR. [PA272206 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 14 Sep 82 p 6]

MISURASATA STATEMENT--The Miskito, Sumu, Rama Sandinist Unity, MISURASATA, the Indian unity group of Nicaragua's Atlantic region, issued a document yesterday in San Jose urging the Nicaraguan people to form a broad alliance to serve the people's aspiration to liberty and independence. The document calls on Indians, international organizations and democratic governments to express their solidarity with MISURASATA so that the racist FSLN government will immediately end its brutal extermination of Indians. [San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Sep 82]

MONEY SAVED THROUGH REPAIRS--The workers of 11 central industrial reconstruction shops have saved some \$6 million by reducing the need to import equipment, Construction Ministry sources have announced. Over 500 workers are now helping repair equipment and industrial spare parts and participating in simple technological projects. A group of 30 technicians is currently in Cuba to further their knowledge in this area. [PA282344 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Sep 82]

CSO: 3248/30

BRIEFS

NEW LABOUR PARTY ARREST--Basseterre St. Kitts Thursday (CANA)--St. Kitts-Nevis Police today charged a second Opposition politician here with incitement as the Labour Party continues its island-wide campaign against the government's plans to take this British associated state into independence next year. Fidel O'Flaherty, a young Labour Party platform speaker, was granted bail in the sum of EC\$5 000 (EC\$1 equal 37 cents US) when he appeared in court this morning on a charge of inciting persons assembled at a public meeting to commit bodily injury. [Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 10 Sep 82 p 1]

CSO: 3298/009

DISARRAY IN OPPOSITION LABOUR PARTY; CENAC LEADERSHIP HIT

Bridgetown SUNDAY SUN in English 12 Sep 82 p 2

[Text]

CASTRIES, St. Lucia — The internal problems of the opposition St. Lucia Labour Party (SLP), continued on Friday with newly-elected party leader Cecil Lay, formally withdrawing his support for Neville Cenac as parliamentary leader of the opposition.

Cenac, younger brother of former Prime Minister Winston Cenac, along with Lay, were the only two SLP members returned in last May's general election, which was won by the United Workers Party (UWP) under John Compton.

The SLP defeat came three years after it had returned to the seat of power for the first time in 15 years. But its reign was dominated by a fight for leadership and other internal problems, resulting in its bowing from office under public pressure last January.

But even in opposition, the party's problems have persisted. Cenac, who became opposition leader following the May election, was accused of ignoring party directives in the appointment of

opposition senators. And a controversy surfaced primarily between himself and de facto party leader, Peter Josie.

Josie, who had failed in his bid to win a seat in the May election, could not continue as party leader, according to the SLP constitution. So the factional squabbling continued.

Late last month, a party convention elected Lay as political leader, with Josie as his deputy.

Supporters of Josie took all the key positions on the executive, but the Cenac faction rejected the decisions of the convention.

Cenac claimed the convention was unauthorised, since it was not convened by the party executive.

Friday, Lay, who represents the constituency of Vieux Fort north in the House of Assembly, sent a letter to Governor General Boswell Williams withdrawing his support for Cenac as opposition leader. He urged Williams to undertake an immediate review of Cenac's position.

At the same time, the SLP issued a statement announcing that it would set up a three-man commission of enquiry into the conduct of the last SLP government and its members.

The inquiry, the statement said, would determine the cause of the fall of the SLP administration as well as the "low public image" of the party. (CANA)

CSO: 3298/009

BRIEFS

WAGE SETTLEMENT--Kingstown, St. Vincent, Sunday, (CANA)--The Commercial Technical and Allied Workers' Union (CTAWU) here and the St. Vincent Water and Sewerage Authority have signed new agreements providing for higher wages and improved conditions of service for about 140 monthly and daily paid workers employed by the authority. The agreements cover three years in the case of monthly paid workers--1981 to 1983. This category of workers will receive a 30 per cent increase on salaries paid in 1981. Their salaries will go up by 8 per cent in 1982 and with a further increase of 10 per cent next year. The increases for the daily paid workers are 30 per cent for this year and 15 per cent for next year. Manager of the Central Water and Sewerage Authority (CWSA) Robert France, said the salary increases will cost the water and sewerage authority in the Vicinity of EC\$336 000 (one EC dollar equals 37 cents U.S.). [Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 13 Sep 82 p 3]

CSO: 3298/009

GOVERNMENT HITS UNION DEMANDS, PLANS INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS CODE

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 11 Sep 82 p 1

[Text]

TRINIDAD and Tobago trade unions have come under heavy fire from Mr. Errol Mahabir, Minister of Labour, Social Security and Co-operatives, for continuing to make unreasonable demands on employers even though they know that the current worldwide economic recession is insistently knocking at the country's door.

The Labour Minister also took employers to task for being eager to retrench workers to protect their profit margins. He painted a picture of the country on the verge of an industrial relation crisis.

And he went on to reveal that Government, in a bid to launch a new and constructive era of industrial relations, had decided to establish an Industrial Relations Code which hopefully would prevent many of the disputes between employers and employees.

To speed up this exercise, Government, Mr. Mahabir said had contracted the services of labour expert Dr. Zin Henry who recently retired from the post of Director of the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) Caribbean Office.

The disclosures came in a wide-ranging address Mr. Mahabir delivered last night when he formally opened the Trinidad and Tobago Labour Congress's 8th biennial conference at the PSA Recreation Centre, Long Circular Road, St. James.

He said the nation continued as if unaware of the ominous signs abroad: "We continue to behave as though we are insulated from the effects of global recession and inflation. While we seem ob-

livious of these difficulties, nations of the world, developed and developing, are utilising every measure possible to control unemployment and prevent severe decline in their economies.

"While some workers in some parts of the world are accepting wage cuts in the interest of preserving jobs, we in Trinidad and Tobago continue to make irresponsible demands for improved benefits far in excess of what may ever be regarded as reasonable."

In a word to employers, he elaborated that it did not and should not follow that laying off workers must always take place because of an adverse economic situation.

EASIEST WAY OUT

"Employers need to recognise that in times of adverse economic situations, profit expectations may not be realisable and, indeed, precipitate actions on their part cause as much harm to the economy as, say unrealistic wage escalation.

"Resorting prematurely to lay-off action in response to a trend of falling profits is, therefore, not necessarily good business sense, not to mention the question of the social responsibility of the employer.

"What we need in these times in particular are understanding and goodwill in planning defensive measures to combat the situation," the Minister said.

He urged labour leaders to remove suspicion and distrust from their deliberations on behalf of their members.

"To take the view or the position that the cause for suspicion lies with employers or the system is, I respectfully submit, seeking the easiest way out.

"This is not to deny that some of our employers' behavioural patterns do provide cause for suspicion.

"But the building of trust and confidence in industrial relations is not a one-dimensional problem. It involves respectful interlacing of employers and workers, including their respective organisations, as well as Government agencies charged with responsibilities for industrial relations matters.

"I therefore throw out an appeal to you this evening, as a Labour Movement, and to the employers of this country, to join with the Government in launching an intensive campaign to exterminate as much as is possible the strong feeling of distrust and suspicion which permeates our industrial scene.

CARONI DROPS 2,000 SEASONAL SUGAR WORKERS AHEAD OF TIME

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 11 Sep 82 p 3

[Text]

PORT-OF-SPAIN Trinidad Friday (CANA) — Trinidad and Tobago largest sugar producing company, the state-owned Caroni Limited, has served retrenchment notices to more than 2,000 seasonal workers, as the future of the debt-ridden industry remains in the balance. Leader of the all Trinidad Sugar and General Workers Union, Basdeo Panday said the out-of-crop employees, who would normally have been on the job until the end of November were terminated from the middle of August. Caroni's public relations manager, Tony Deyal, confirmed that seasonal workers were being sent home, but said it was not a matter of retrenchment.

He explained that the company had reduced its planting area from 1 440 hectares to 800 hectares.

He said that as a result, some seasonal workers were sent home in August and another batch will leave at the end of this month.

The local sugar industry has been hard hit by declining production and multi-million dollar losses annually and Government is now studying five reports of recommendations on the future of the sector.

This year production fell to just under 80 000 tonnes, 23 000 tonnes below the pre-crop target.

The Express newspaper here said the current layoffs would save Caroni more than TT\$6 million (TT\$1 equal 41 cents US).

Mr. Panday who is also leader of the Opposition in Parliament, pointed out that it was the first time in four years that the seasonal workers were sent home so early in the off-crop season.

This is abnormal even though seasonal workers are not offered guaranteed work, Mr. Panday said.

According to him, the union has lodged a "strong protest" and called for an urgent meeting with the company on the issue. He blamed the uncertainty surrounding the future of the industry for the present impasse.

Mr. Panday said that the Government was putting forward "piece-meal" plans for the industry, but was yet to come up with "something as comprehensive and detailed as the sugar rationalisation committee report."

He renewed his call for a "full statement on the future direction of the sugar industry."

STALLED TTEC INDUSTRIAL DISPUTE SENT TO LABOR COURT

Government Action

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 10 Sep 82 p 1

[Text]

LABOUR Minister Errol Mahabir has decided to send the protracted industrial dispute between the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (TTEC) and the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union (OWTU) to the Essential Services Division of the Industrial Court.

Mr. Mahabir's decision was conveyed to the bargaining teams of both parties at his Riverside Plaza office at 6 p.m. yesterday.

According to an informed source, the Minister will send the matter to the Court the first thing this morning.

In a comprehensive statement to the warring factions yesterday, the Minister who referred to sections of his speech in the House of Representatives when he piloted the Bill for the Industrial Relations Act

in 1972, told the representatives:

"I have reviewed all the circumstances surrounding this dispute including the fact that the Commission itself is not agreeable to any further extension, and I am satisfied that no useful purpose would be served by continuing to conciliate this dispute in the Ministry of Labour.

"I wish to advise both parties that I propose to refer it to the Essential Services Division of the Industrial Court as an unresolved dispute.

"In so doing I wish to draw to the attention of

the employer, the union and the workers, the various provisions of the Act which relate to the essential services and matters which had been referred to the Industrial Court."

Mr. Mahabir's action came after strenuous efforts he and his most senior officers put into trying to settle the matter through the conciliation process.

The matter was referred to him as a dispute on July 30, 1982, after both sides held some 29 meetings to iron out a new three-year industrial contract.

Minister's Reasoning

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 11 Sep 82 p 3

[Text]

LACK of progress in the negotiations between the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission and the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union (OWTU) was demonstrated by the fact that a proposal which Labour

Minister Errol Mahabir put to the parties on August 9, 1982, was only formally realised one month later.

Mr. Mahabir made this point while addressing TTEC and OWTU officials during which he advised them that he was sending

the matter to the Essential Services Division of the Industrial Court as an unresolved dispute.

The Minister, who adopted this course of action on Thursday evening, said he and his officers devoted the maximum time possible to the negotiations and in fact, a number of other issues had to be set aside to give priority to this particular dispute.

Mr. Mahabir's full statement:

The Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission reported to me on July 30, 1982, a breakdown in negotiations with the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union over a new industrial agreement for the three-year period commencing January 1, 1982.

The dispute was referred to me after both parties had held a total of some 29 meetings and failed to reach agreement on over 70 items, many of which had a number of sub-clauses.

I, as Minister of Labour, personally intervened in this matter and I was assisted by two of the most senior officers in the Labour Administration Division of the Ministry, the Director of Labour Administration and the Chief Labour Officer.

We devoted the maximum time possible to these negotiations and in fact, a number of other issues had to be set aside to give priority to this particular dispute. The reason for this could be seen in my address to the House of Representatives on Wednesday June 14, 1972 when I presented the Industrial Relations Bill and I quote the following:

"I am confident that the very large majority of the people of our country agree that the bounden duty of any Government is to protect the vital interests which members of the public have in being spared the hardships caused by work stoppages which interrupt the supply of essential goods and services.

FREE FROM TENSION

"Indeed, it has always been a tenet of good indus-

trial relations practices that industrial warfare in areas which stifle the flow of essential goods and services should be avoided. The arguments in its favour are unassailable and need no special pleading or justification. The rights of the larger community supersede all subordinate rights of individuals and organisations in the community.

"At the same time, it must be acknowledged that it is equally important to keep these workers in these services free from tension by any undue delays in the settlement of disputes.

"So that while we maintain a firm stand against industrial action in essential services, we pledge with equal vigour to pursue the settlement of disputes which may arise in such industries."

The negotiations in the Ministry here were at times tedious but we were able to make some progress in a number of minor areas. In the process, in accordance with the Industrial Relations Act, three extensions of the time during which the matter would remain before the Minister of Labour were given, in order to secure a settlement. The third extension ends today, September 9.

The lack of progress in these negotiations is demonstrated by the fact that a proposal which I put to the parties on August 9, 1982 was only formally realised one month later i.e. on September 8.

I have read the statement made by the Director of Labour Administration to both parties this morning on the present state of the negotiations and the need for a dramatic change

in the position of the parties if the Minister of Labour is to make proposals which are capable of producing a settlement. In addition, I have noted that the Director of Labour Administration has also advised on the legal alternatives.

It is again appropriate for me to refer to my speech of June 14, 1972 when I said:—

"Where there is failure to settle such disputes at the work place or in conciliation, they will be immediately sent to the Court, where I am sure they will be expeditiously handled."

As you are aware, since June 1972, the Government has gone one step further amending the Industrial Relations Act to provide for an Essential Services Division.

NO USEFUL PURPOSE

I have now reviewed all the circumstances surrounding this dispute including the fact that the Commission itself is not agreeable to any further extensions and I am satisfied that no useful purpose will be served by continuing to conciliate this dispute in the Ministry of Labour and I wish to advise both parties that I propose to refer it to the Essential Services Division of the Industrial Court as an unresolved dispute.

In so doing, I wish to draw the attention of the employer, the union and the workers to the various provisions of the Act which relate to Essential Services and matters which have been referred to the Industrial Court.

OILFIELD WORKERS' LEADER CALL FOR UNITED LABOR FRONT

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 10 Sep 82 p 7

[Text]

OIL FIELDS
Workers' Trade Union has written the president general of the Seamen and Waterfront Workers Trade Union, asking for a meeting to discuss the deepening economic crisis and its implications — retrenchment in and out of the oil industry among other things.

George Weekes, OWTU's president general, told Vernon Glean, head of SWWTU, that in keeping with the spirit of labour unity and solidarity which has characterised the new and growing relationship within today's labour movement, he wrote him on matters of great and immediate concern.

Those matters with which the OWTU executive would like to hold dialogue and discussion on with the Seamen's Union also include the implications of the

recent injunction granted to the Minister of Labour by the Industrial Court under Section 65 of the Industrial Relations Act, against the OWTU.

Also the growing use of "killer dogs" against human beings during industrial relations disputes.

Mr Weekes said those matters need wider discussion throughout the labour movement "but we invite discussion with you and your executive so that some common ground or consensus can be achieved before broader discussions are attempted."

On Tuesday some 2,000 oilworkers from all sections of Texaco's operations in Trinidad mandated the central executive of the OWTU to pursue the question of having a national front with all trade unions in the country to resist retrenchment generally.

The workers assembled at Paramount Building, Circular Road, San Fernando, and heard of the problems at the operations of Texaco Trinidad Inc.

They were happy to hear from president general George Weekes, that Texaco decided to defer their decision to send home 75 workers following a meeting between the company and the Ministerial Team appointed to study the Bruce Report on the rationalisation of the oil industry.

The workers also decided to have the Union press Government to establish a national oil industry since they have "no further use for Texaco and other multinationals operating in this country."

In addressing the membership Errol McLeod, vice president, said that Texaco Trinidad was only concerned with profits "and they are not concerned with the social and economic problems and the effects the retrenchment will have on the society."

Mr McLeod said: "The entire oil industry must come under the control of the people by way of nationalisation."

He said that they were very optimistic that the industry will take an upward turn again.

CHAMBERS IN PRIVATE TALKS WITH ROBINSON ON TOBAGO ISSUE

Announcement to Parliament

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 11 Sep 82 p 1

[Text]

SECRET discussions are being held between the Prime Minister Mr. George Chambers and Mr. A.N.R. Robinson, Chairman of the Tobago House of Assembly (THA). The operations of the THA are being discussed.

This surprise but welcome announcement was made in the House of Representatives yesterday by Mr. Chambers. The Prime Minister's brief statement:

"The Chairman of the Tobago House of Assembly and I have met privately and without advisers, to discuss the operations of the Tobago House of Assembly and its general relationship with the Central Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

"The discussions were held in an atmosphere of cordiality and we have both agreed that they should be continued."

The meeting between Mr Chambers and Mr Robinson comes after a long period of dispute and controversy over the interpretation of the Tobago House of Assembly Act.

Mr Robinson in fact, has had running quarrels first with Mr Patrick Manning and later with Mr Anthony Jacelon, who were responsible to the Central Government for Tobago affairs.

Relations between the Government and the Tobago House have deteriorated to the point where there is now talk of secession and independence for the sister isle.

FRIENDSHIP

Recognising the seriousness of the dispute —

"some Tobagonians openly advocating secession from the unitary state — Prime Minister Chambers in his 1982 Independence anniversary message extended the hand of friendship to the sister island.

He said: "In the final analysis my friends, what is at stake is what we have and what today's celebrations are about. I refer particularly to the freedom guaranteed and enshrined in our Constitution, a Judiciary absolutely divorced from executive interference and a fair measure of progress and prosperity achieved in an atmosphere of reasonable peace and calm.

"Specifically to our brothers and sisters in Tobago, may I say in all sincerity that the hand of friendship which I extended to you remains outstretched; and I remain fully committed to the search

for lasting and mutually acceptable solutions to the present misunderstandings which I am convinced are purely temporary in nature.

"All I ask is that we respect and trust each other and resolve to jointly strive for the creation of an atmosphere in which these solutions may be more easily achieved."

Responding, Mr Robinson said: "If a hand of friendship is extended to me I will not reject it...provided that it is the hand of sincere friendship...the hand of equality.

If the friendship is for human liberation and human progress, I am with you."

It is understood that the secret sessions began after Mr. Chambers's Independence message.

UNJUST UNION

Last month the state of relations between both

sides became more critical when the THA passed a motion which asked the House "to take all necessary steps to terminate the present unjust union with Trinidad and to secure either its replacement with a union based on terms and conditions acceptable for the authorised representatives of the people of Tobago or the full independence of Tobago with secure territorial boundaries."

Commenting on this resolution Senator Jacelon stressed:

"We have a Constitution and until Parliament amends the Constitution Tobago is part of the Unitary State of Trinidad and Tobago."

"The DAC is free to pass whatever resolution it wants."

"But they must remember that they do not represent the views no where near 100 per cent of the people of Trinidad and Tobago."

"In the long run the people of Tobago and not

the DAC are the persons to decide what is the best interest of the people of Tobago."

Mr. Chambers's announcement in Parliament yesterday has thrown the whole issue in a new perspective and political observers are hoping that some reconciliation may result from these private discussions.

Mr. Robinson could not be contacted yesterday.

Tobago Leader's Comment

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 12 Sep 82 p 1

[Text]

MR. A.N.R. Robinson, Chairman of the Tobago House of Assembly, yesterday welcomed the new approach by Prime Minister George Chambers towards resolving the problems of the Assembly.

"I expect that it is the beginning of much more fruitful relations, and that outstanding issues will be resolved in a manner acceptable to both sides,

particularly the people of Tobago," he said.

In Parliament on Friday, Prime Minister Chambers revealed that private discussions were taking place between himself and Mr. Robinson on the operations of the Assembly and its general relationship with the Central Government.

Mr. Chambers said the discussions were held in an

atmosphere of cordiality and we have both agreed that they should be continued."

Yesterday, Mr. Robinson said no date had been set for their next round of talks, but added that he got the impression that the Prime Minister was carrying out his pledge of "holding out the hand of friendship" to Tobago.

CSO: 3298/010

BRIEFS

POSITIVE TRADE BALANCE--Trinidad and Tobago recorded a favourable balance of visible trade amounting to \$1,349 million, for the first six months of 1981, according to figures released by the Central Statistical Office (CSO). Imports for the six-month period--January to June--totalled \$3,110 million, while exports for the same period amounted to \$4,459 million. At the end of the first quarter--January to March, 1981--the favourable balance was \$534 million, while for the second quarter--April to June--it climbed to \$815 million. According to the report, total assets of the Central Bank at the end of the second quarter in 1981 amounted to \$6,687 million--an increase of \$318.2 million, or five per cent over the figure for the first quarter. Total assets of commercial banks increased by 6.1 per cent, from \$5,256.2 million, at the end of the fourth quarter of 1980, to \$5,576.7 million, at the end of the first quarter in 1981, and by 5.2 per cent to \$5,867.6 million at the end of the second quarter in 1981. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 13 Sep 82 p 1]

CSO: 3298/011

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